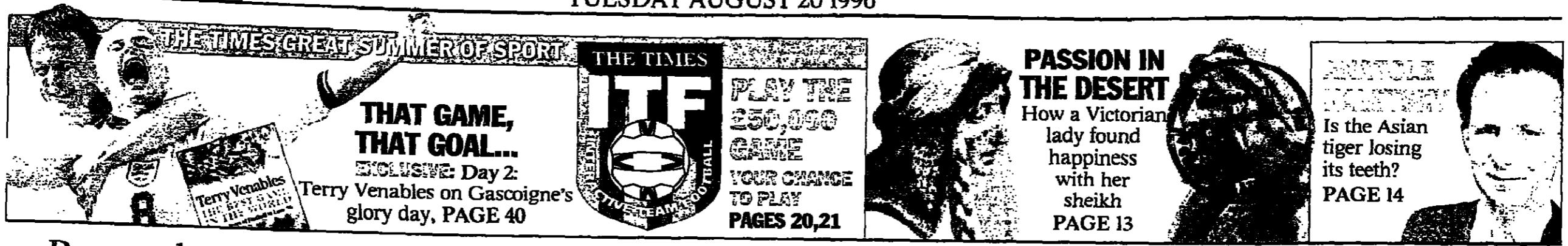


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TUESDAY AUGUST 20 1996

30P



Proposals match Prince's vision

Future of the monarchy is scrutinised

By ALAN HAMILTON
AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR and Tony Blair have been involved in detailed private talks with the Queen and Prince of Wales over radical proposals to reform the monarchy, it emerged last night.

The leaked proposals bear all the hallmarks of the Prince of Wales's vision of the throne he would like to inherit. They include financing the monarchy entirely from Crown Estate revenues, dis-establishing the Church of England, repealing the 295-year-old ban against heirs to the throne marrying Roman Catholics, and allowing the first-born child of a monarch to succeed to the throne irrespective of sex.

Buckingham Palace acknowledged yesterday that an informal group of Royal Family members and their most senior advisers met twice in July to discuss major strategic issues affecting the future of the Crown.

But Palace sources, while admitting that revolutionary proposals were often aired in private, denied that they formed part of a concerted plan by the Queen to redesign the monarchy in order that it might survive into the 21st century.

The Palace added that no immediate changes to the monarchy were in prospect, and said it was natural and inevitable that the Queen and her closest circle should look to the future, which they had been doing regularly for some time.

No action on the proposals is expected until at least after the next general election, and possibly even a long time after that. All the main points of debate have been the subject of discussion for years, and most have been aired publicly in the past by the Prince of Wales, most notably in the biography



by Jonathan Dimbleby, in which the Prince cooperated closely.

The Prince has gone on record as saying that he would prefer to be "Defender of Faiths" to acknowledge the multi-cultural mix of modern Britain. It is some years since he first floated the idea of returning the Royal Family's funding to the Crown Estate as a means of achieving complete financial independence from government.

"Tony Blair has been kept informed on Privy Council terms. But underlying the discussions with both the Queen and the Prince of Wales is the feeling that it might be his government which presides over any changes," said one senior Whitehall official last night.

But Labour MPs immediately served notice that some of the plans would not go through without a fight. Any move to scrap the Civil List, currently costing £8.9 million a year, and return to the Royal Family the revenues of the Crown Estate — which last year yielded the Treasury over £94 million — would be strongly opposed by MPs on both sides of the House.

Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet secretary, and Alex Allan, the Prime Minister's principal private secretary, were at the lunch. Only a few weeks earlier, Labour had published proposals to strip the Crown of most of its few remaining vestigial powers. Also at the gathering were Professor Bogdanor and Lord Blake, the constitutional historian, along with senior members of the Royal household.

Sir Robin and Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, meet regularly to discuss political issues affecting the monarchy and report back to the Queen and Prime Minister.

Popular support, page 2
Leading article, page 15

Queen to pay income tax, has given enthusiastic backing to the Royal discussions. But the existence of the planning group came as a surprise to many junior members of the Royal Family yesterday. "The first they knew about it was when they read it in the papers," one former courtier said.

Vernon Bogdanor, professor of government at Oxford University, who is a confidante of the Prince of Wales, has emerged as one of the key influences on the Prince's view of the kind of monarchy he would like.

Many of the proposals for change were contained in his book, *The Monarchy and The Constitution*, published last year. Professor Bogdanor talked at length to the Prince while writing the book, which is regarded as a key text on the future of the monarchy.

Downing Street's heavy involvement in the discussions is illustrated by the fact that two of Mr Major's most senior advisers attended a private lunch at the palace last July. "The powers encompassed in the Royal Prerogative were on the menu," said one guest.

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Tom Loughlin, four, and his sister, Jodie, six. They changed quickly on reaching the beach and were last seen running towards the waves

Hopes fade for missing beach children

By STEPHEN FARRELL
AND LIN JENKINS

TWO children were missing and feared to have drowned last night after a 24-hour search by police, coastguards and volunteers failed to find a trace of them on a holiday beach in Norfolk.

Jodi Loughlin, six, and her brother Tom, four, from Norfolk in south London, disappeared within minutes of arriving at the shore in Holme next the Sea, three miles from Hunstanton, on Sunday. The excited youngsters undressed quicker than their parents, ran towards the incoming water and disappeared into a crowd of sunbathers at 5.30pm. Neither could swim.

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Police search the shore

sumed at first light, 4.45am. As helicopters scanned a wider area, 40 police, 34 firemen and coastguards and Customs and Excise officers in four-wheel drive vehicles secured a four-mile stretch of beach from Old Hunstanton east to Thornham Harbour.

Meanwhile, civilian volunteers paddled up dykes and police searched 150 beach huts, breaking open some of them. Volunteer mountain rescue teams from the Peak District and Scarborough brought four border collies trained to find people in difficult terrain.

Coastguards said the task's size was doubled by the location of the beach at the corner of the Wash. Currents move south towards King's Lynn and east along the north Norfolk coast. The children disappeared on one of the worst days of the year, a day off a spring tide when the high and low water marks are at maximum and the sea comes in more rapidly.

"Hope is fading. The only chance now is if they are some

where inland," said David Thiel, coastguard sector officer. "The particular hazard here is that the tide comes in relatively quickly and people can be cut off with water coming in behind them. You may be standing in a foot of water but just a few yards away it is 2ft to 3ft deeper and that, for a child, is a lot."

He said there was no evidence Jodi and Tom — pupils at Rockmount Junior and Infants School — were abducted, and nothing to suggest anything other than that they "simply walked away or, sadly perhaps, have been washed away".

□ Boy drowned: Scott Dickerson, eight, of Langley Mill, Derbyshire, was found drowned on Trusthorpe beach, near Mablethorpe, in Lincolnshire, on Sunday. He had been staying with relatives at nearby Sutton on Sea.

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Fred West police help Belgian hunt

By ROGER BOYES IN CHARLEROI AND RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

BELGIAN police hunting for more possible victims of a paedophile ring yesterday sought advice from officers in Gloucestershire who carried out the exhaustive search for bodies at the home of Fred and Rosemary West.

Superintendent John Bennett, who led the murder inquiry at Cromwell Street, Gloucester, spoke to Belgian police yesterday afternoon. "They wanted to draw upon our experiences, in particular our search techniques," said a police spokesman. In the search at Cromwell Street

officers used a radar device, that looked like a primitive lawn mower, to detect buried bodies.

The Belgians have also been in touch with Bramshill Police College, which acts as an international information centre for inquiries given special expertise.

In Belgium, Michelle Martin, the wife of a child rapist at the heart of the paedophile scandal, was charged yesterday with being an accomplice in the crimes of Marc Dutroux. Ms Martin, 36, a tall former teacher was flown to a

remote court room in southern Belgium to avoid the furious crowds waiting for her in Neuchâtel. She denies any involvement in the crimes of Mr Dutroux, who has confessed to killing an accomplice and has been charged with kidnapping minors.

The bodies of two eight-year-old girls, as well as the murdered accomplice, were dug up from the garden of the house she shared with Mr Dutroux in Sars-la-Buissière, near Charleroi. Police are searching the country for other bodies.

Another paedophilia case under investigation in Belgium involves a woman who took pictures while her male companion abused children.

Facing a wave of public anger at the leniency of Belgian law regarding convicted child sex offenders, Justice Minister Stefaan de Clerck pledged yesterday to make it harder for them to be released from jail early. "A prison commission will now be established to look at all these sort of delicate files," he said.

Public anger, page 3

Heatwave to end before bank holiday

THE heatwave is coming to an end. Yesterday the hottest place in Britain was Nottingham at 89.2F (31.8C). Weathermen had predicted that the 1996 record of 33C in Jersey on July 22 would be beaten.

Nice, on the French Riviera, recorded a noon temperature of 27C.

But unrelenting weather is on the way and there may be showers and temperatures of only 72F for the bank holiday next weekend.

Forecast, page 22

Pets and owners find common ground for ever

By ROBIN YOUNG

A CEMETERY where pets and their owners can be buried together — thought to be Europe's first — won the go-ahead yesterday.

Mr Wedgwood, a greetings card publisher, was so surprised given planning permission by Torridge District Council for the cemetery at Huntshaw, north Devon.

Among supporters is the rector of Huntshaw, the Rev Richard Aworth. He said funeral services for humans could take place in the church of St Mary Magdalene, followed by burial

under Mr Wedgwood's oaks in what was formerly a gleaning field belonging to the church. "I would, not hold funeral services in church for pets," he added, "but I would be prepared to say a few prayers at the graveside."

Mr Wedgwood said the idea came to him as he was pruning some of the 2,000 oak trees he planted on a south-facing slope above his home, Huntshaw House, to stop occasional flooding.

"I got to thinking about the Mongols. I realised this was a perfect place for a burial ground. The Mongols always wanted to be buried beneath a

tree on a south-facing slope, and they wanted to be buried with their horses beside them. I had the trees, I had the slope, and I thought, 'Why not bury both pets and people?'

His scheme is to lease each tree for £150 for ten years, that payment to cover the burial of the first pet. Further pets — anything up to horses — can be interred for a charge according to size.

Burial of humans will cost £250 per person, and tree leases will be renewable at terms to be agreed every ten years. "Humans will be buried to the south of the tree, as the Mongols would have insisted," Mr Wedgwood

said. "Pets can go to the east, north or west. If anyone wanted their pet buried alongside them or in a double-depth grave, I expect that could be arranged."

The parish council of Huntshaw and Alverdiscott backed the scheme and Mr Wedgwood said he was surprised at the lack of objections. "I put in for it hoping for the best but fearing the worst, but there were only three letters of opposition."

Mr Wedgwood added: "Ecologically it is perfect. Like oak trees, people are made up of carbohydrates. The remains will go to nourish the trees."

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Crown board that thinks the unthinkable

By ALAN HAMILTON

MEMBERS of the Royal Family and their senior advisers have been meeting regularly as a group since 1992 to discuss forward planning and major issues affecting the position and future of the monarchy.

It would be surprising, indeed worrying, if the royal family did not occasionally sit down and contemplate its future. Every government ministry and business corporation has some mechanism for long-distance strategic planning, so why not the Crown?

The group has no official name, no fixed timetable and no formal agenda. Referred to unofficially in some quarters as the Planning Group, it meets twice a year, usually at Sandringham and Balmoral because only during the holiday periods are its members sufficiently free from day-to-day business to find the time.

In the comfortable surroundings of a drawing room at one of the Queen's two private homes, the members talk informally and freely about future plans, which could range from major constitutional issues to the nuts and bolts of overseas royal tours. No one takes the chair, although the Duke of Edinburgh is said to be a particularly active participant.

The meeting is in effect a family council attended by the Queen and Prince Philip, the Prince of Wales, the Duke of York, Prince Edward and the Princess Royal. Sir Robert Fellowes, the Queen's private secretary, and his deputy Robe in Janvrin are present, as is



The family firm in action. Behind the scenes, senior members and their advisers meet for strategic planning, in a group with no fixed timetable and no formal agenda

Commander Richard Aylard, the Prince of Wales's private secretary.

The Earl of Airlie, Lord Chamberlain, and Michael Peat, the royal household's director of finance, have attended past meetings to advise on financial aspects.

Monarchs have always held family meetings, if only to discuss the upbringing of their children. The meetings were

put on a slightly more regulated footing at the time of the Queen's *annus horribilis* for two reasons. First, senior Buckingham Palace officials were becoming concerned at the lack of liaison with the Prince of Wales's office at St James's Palace, which they increasingly felt was being run as an independent principality.

Second, the royal family

found itself faced with a number of important decisions. Major issues discussed by the group in the past four years, and subsequently made public when they were firmed up into policy, include: the Queen's decision to pay income tax, the removal of all members of the royal family except the Queen, Prince Philip and the Queen Mother, from the Civil List; the

Queen's decision to fund the restoration of Windsor Castle after the fire; and opening Buckingham Palace to the public.

Another topic at all recent meetings will have been the Prince and Princess of Wales's failed marriage, and what should be done about it.

The group was, however, notably less successful in stirring the parties to early action

than it has been in other, more businesslike, departments of the royal firm.

Government ministers are occasionally invited to take part in the discussions. Peter Brooke, when National Heritage Secretary, sat in on the family debate over what to do about the Windsor fire.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, will be present at this summer's group meet-

ing at Balmoral, in order to advise on forthcoming overseas royal visits, which are undertaken only on Foreign Office advice.

The main conduit carrying the views of the group to government, however, is the regular contact between Sir Robert Fellowes and Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet secretary.

Although Buckingham Palace refuses to say what is

discussed at group meetings, treating them with the same confidentiality as the Prime Minister's weekly audience with the Queen, it is clear that the informality of the occasions means that anything and everything can be aired, without necessarily becoming set in concrete as official policy.

One visible result of the meetings since 1992 is that, when informal discussions have hardened into decision, the Palace has held open and detailed press briefings on the result as in the cases of the royal income tax and the Windsor restoration funding. The Queen is well aware, in the current climate, of the need for openness.

The very existence of the meetings is an indication that the Queen has a finger in the wind, and is willing at least to contemplate jumping before she is pushed.

The Palace said yesterday: "It is worth pointing out that one of the reasons the monarchy has lasted for over 1,000 years is that it is able to adapt and change as necessary, whilst retaining the overwhelming public support it enjoys."

□ The Queen and Duke of Edinburgh are to make State visits to India and Pakistan next year, half a century after both countries gained their independence from Britain. Buckingham Palace announced yesterday that the visits would take place in October 1997 at the invitation of the presidents of the two countries. The subcontinent was divided between India and the new Islamic nation of Pakistan on August 14, 1947.

Royal reforms put Blair's head on the party block

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR was given a warning last night that he could face a backbench revolt if a Labour government endorsed moves to end the Civil List and to restore the income from the Crown Estate to the Royal Family.

Tory MPs also expressed private misgivings over the leaked proposals from Buckingham Palace, which they believed were another sign of the monarchy overreacting to public opinion. Some Tory MPs feared the process had been initiated to pave the way for the Prince of Wales to remain.

Lord Blake, the Tory historian, said last night: "The monarchy has survived much worse than a temporary bout

of unpopularity which is brought about by the activities of the younger royals. Why change an institution which has worked for centuries?"

Tony Blair, who has been kept closely informed of the proposed changes, which might be expected to take place under his prime ministership, was left in no illusion last night about the danger of bringing the Royal Family into Labour Party politics.

Alan Williams, the Labour MP for Swansea West, a leading Commons critic of the funding of the royals, said: "This is nothing but a public relations gambit and another sign of the desperation of the Palace. This is panic, not value for money again."

Another left-wing Labour MP said: "Up to 40 per cent of Labour MPs are in favour of a republic. Constitutional reform of the monarchy is the one the Labour leadership will not address. It will have to — but not by giving back the monarchy the Crown Estate at a further net loss to the taxpayer."

Labour leaders declined to comment on the leaked Palace proposals yesterday, apart from describing them as premature press speculation. But there was confusion in the party hierarchy over its precise policy position.

Aides of Tony Blair said that the party had made a manifesto commitment to reform of the Royal Prerogative. That assertion was contradicted by officials working for Jack Straw, the Shadow Home Secretary. "There are no changes proposed," said one.

Tory MPs were also reluctant to comment yesterday. Sir George Gardiner, the leading right-wing MP, said: "It is right that periodically there should be a period of introspection. There should first be extensive consultation before any of this happens."

The King of Norway, like the British Queen, remains "Defender of the Faith" — in this case the Lutheran state religion. Until 1990 women were not eligible to succeed to the throne.

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In Spain, King Juan Carlos has become a widely respected and much-loved figure after an inauspicious start in 1975 as the designated heir of the dictator Franco.

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and stripped himself of most of his constitutional powers in the process.

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Former minister overruled prosecutor to allow abuser out of jail after only quarter of his sentence

Belgian justice in the dock over paedophile who was freed early

FROM ROGER BOYES IN CHARLEROI

BELGIUM'S former Justice Minister went to ground yesterday as public anger centred on why he allowed Marc Dutroux to be freed after serving only three years of a 13-year sentence for the sexual abuse of children.

Melchior Wathelet overruled the public prosecutor and used his special powers to release Dutroux for good behaviour. His wife was also

released early, after serving half of her six-year sentence for assisting in his crimes.

"Do you have an easy conscience, Mr Wathelet?" reads a note pinned to the door of the parents of Mélissa Russo, one of two eight-year-olds whose bodies were found in Dutroux's garden at the weekend. Marie-France Bone, a child-rights activist, denounced the decision to re-

lease him as ridiculous. "How could our justice system and Mr Wathelet ignore the fact that 50 per cent of child-sex offenders repeat their crime within 48 hours of being released?" The crowd around Dutroux's house shouted above the noise of the diggers and pneumatic drills in the garden, for the restoration of the death sentence: some newspapers agreed.

Mr Wathelet is believed to be on holiday in Italy, but his home was under heavy guard yesterday. His successor, Stefaan de Clerck, pledged to tighten the rules on early release for child-sex offenders. He said: "A prison commission will now be established to look at all these sort of delicate files. Only if there is unanimous agreement could there possibly be an early release."

However, Mr de Clerck had difficulties in explaining the catalogue of blunders that led to at least two child murders and two recent abductions. First, the police did not involve parents in their search for the missing children, even though they had information which could have been useful. The police were wary of theories about organised paedophile gangs and, until about ten days ago, pursued almost every other line of investigation instead.

Second, after Dutroux was released from prison, he was not monitored. Neighbours now say that he worked busily at nights in his garden. He was an unemployed electrician, but owned 11 houses; some reports say 13. He roamed the country. Yet when the two girls disappeared in June 1995, he was not thoroughly investigated. Police pulled him in on their charges last winter, but did not press paedophile charges. The accu-

sations of theft did not hold up and he was released after a few months. Third, the police twice searched the house where the two girls were held and discovered nobody.

British police officers, such as Chief Superintendent Brian Mackenzie, who has been investigating paedophile networks, have some sympathy with their Belgian colleagues.

"It is a problem of balancing civil liberties against the protection of the child," he said on BBC television yesterday, pointing out that sometimes only tearing down the suspect's house would disclose hidden captives or corpses.

The girls were hidden in a concrete dungeon, where they died of starvation while Dutroux was in detention last winter.

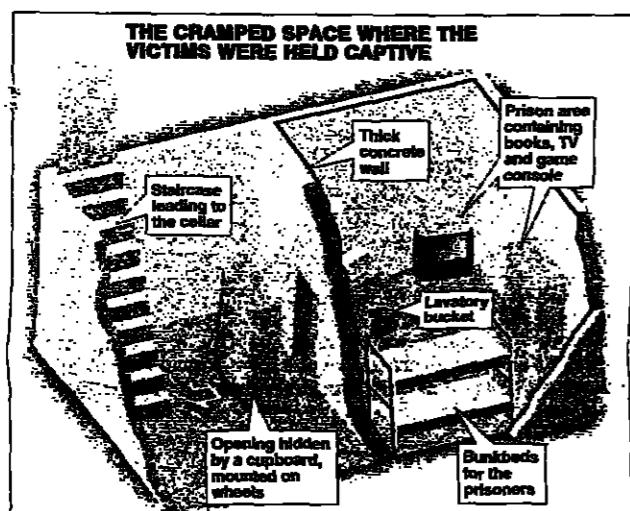
Finally, Belgian law on



A father signing a book of condolences for the murdered eight-year-olds Julie Lejeune and Mélissa Russo near Charleroi yesterday



Dutroux admits kidnapping Eefje Lambrechts, left, and An Marchal, who went missing last year



Boys' DNA tested in Brittany murder case

BY JOANNA BALE AND PAUL WILKINSON

FRENCH detectives took samples for DNA tests from five teenage boys yesterday on the first day of their inquiry in Britain into the rape and murder last month of the schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson.

The boys were driven at high speed in an unmarked police car through the gates of Launceston police station in Cornwall. Two unmarked cars followed, containing some of the girls also on the school trip with Caroline, 13, when she was suffocated at a youth hostel in Brittany.

The children, not accompanied by their parents, spent two hours giving blood and saliva samples and being interviewed by British detectives guided by the five English-speaking gendarmes. The British officers will conduct further interviews with the children in suites equipped with videotape facilities and two-way mirrors. Social workers and child psychologists were on hand.

The five boys and the girls believed to have been sharing a room with Caroline will be interviewed over several days using a 25-page ques-

tionnaire and a computer which instantly translates English into French and relays it back to France. The boys' parents gave permission for their sons to give samples for DNA testing, to be matched with semen found on Caroline's body.

The Mayor of Launceston, Barry Jordan, expressed concern that the man leading the investigation, the French examining magistrate Gérard Zaug, was reportedly on holiday, fearing that this might cause delay. "These children have been through an awfully traumatic time and they are willing to do anything to help the police. I have no criticism of the French police for coming here to review them," Mr Jordan said.

French police declined to comment on whether progress would be affected by M Zaug's absence. The boys from Launceston College are not thought to be suspects in the murder last month at a youth hostel in Pléine Fougeres, but police wish to rule them out of the inquiry. Thirty-nine students on the trip are being asked to submit all photo-

graphs taken in Brittany, for possible clues.

French police believe the man who murdered Caroline might have been responsible for an incident three hours earlier in which a man tried to suffocate a 14-year-old on a trip from Hope High School, Salford, as she slept at a youth hostel 25 miles away in St Léonard. The parents of the children involved in that incident have complained that they were not informed. The school party returned to England the next day, and the master was not reported to police until the school heard about the nearby murder.

Yesterday Greater Manchester Police said they had spoken to students and teachers from the school and passed on information to Devon and Cornwall Police.

One Salford parent said: "The school has not been on to tell us officially about the incident and I think the whole thing is terrible. From what I can gather, no one seems to have believed the girls."

Two further incidents at youth hostels in Brittany bear similar hallmarks.



Hostel link to Briton's murderer

POLICE in Honduras said yesterday that they were closing in on the killer of William Wates, the son of a millionaire builder. They believe that the 19-year-old, who had finished a tree-planting project and was travelling alone before starting university, was shot by a man who shared his room at a cheap hostel. Mr Wates was seen leaving with some people.

Mr Wates' father Andrew, 55, the owner of Grand National winner Rough Quest, was expected to arrive in the South American country yesterday with another of his five sons, Tim.

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ICE? TOP SECRET

Coroner says BSE beefburgers may have killed student

BY PAUL WILKINSON

THE parents of a student who died from the brain disease CJD welcomed the verdict of a coroner yesterday who said their son was probably killed by eating beefburgers contaminated with BSE.

Peter Hall began suffering memory loss as an A-level student but won a place to read maths at Newcastle University before the disease reduced him, over three years, to a shambling wreck. He died in February, aged 20.

At the inquest into his death in Durham yesterday, the coroner Geoffrey Burt recorded a verdict of misadventure. He said: "It cannot be proved scientifically there is a link between CJD and BSE. We base our decisions on the level of proof and the basis of probabilities. I cannot see any reasonable explanation for a young man contracting CJD."

"Like many people his age, he had a liking for snack food and beefburgers. It is well known that not all beefburgers are made from the finest quality beef."

Peter's mother, Frances Hall, said after the hearing: "We are very pleased and surprised at the outcome of the case. We will carry on with our fight now because someone is to blame for this. The Government has known there has been a problem for a lot of years but they kept it quiet."

Derek Hall said: "It provides more ammunition for us to get things moving towards a public inquiry."

The couple, of Chester-le-Sweet, County Durham, who have another son John, 25, filmed the latter stages of

Peter's illness to illustrate the effects of the disease. The inquest was the first to be held in the United Kingdom into a variant of CJD called Kuru, found originally among the Fore tribe of South East Asia, who practised ritual cannibalism. Just 11 other cases have been diagnosed in Britain in the past three years. At first, neurologists refused to consider it was CJD because the illness normally affects much older people.

Dr Robert Perry, a consultant neuropathologist at Newcastle General Hospital, questioned by Jonathan Glasson for the Hall family, said: "My personal view is that BSE might be passed on by eating meat with offal in it which is infected. I am sure BSE can be transferred to man but it depends how. Most neurologists would link CJD to the BSE epidemic but would probably not say so in public."

Last night the Department of Health said: "Our position remains unaltered. There is no scientific proof that humans can contract CJD from beef."

The illness first manifested itself through memory loss when his son was a sixth-former. He went up to Newcastle University to read maths, but difficulty concentrating forced him to drop out after three months. The following year he started an environmental studies course at Sunderland. His father said: "Then he began to come home more and more often."

Peter lost weight and started suffering problems with his balance. He was eventually admitted to the Royal Victoria Infirmary in Newcastle, where experts believed he was suffering from a degenerative brain disorder. In December last year, his parents allowed the independent expert Dr Harash Narang to take a sample of their son's urine to test for CJD. It proved posi-



The coroner, Geoffrey Burt, and Peter Hall. Evidence said BSE can be passed to humans

Talks on cull boycott

The Government began talks with abattoir owners in Northern Ireland yesterday to try to stop a boycott of the cull of older cattle spreading to the rest of Britain (Michael Hornsby writes).

All eight abattoirs in Northern Ireland stopped taking part in the cull from yesterday because the Government wanted to cut the £87.50 fee for every animal slaughtered. The cull began in May throughout Britain as part of measures to fight BSE and the Irish abattoirs were killing about 4,000 cattle a week.

Officials from the Intervention Board, the government agency running the cull, met representatives of the Northern Ireland Meat Exporters' Association at the Ministry of Agriculture in London. The board is to hold talks with the Federation of Fresh Meat Wholesalers, representing abattoirs in England, today.

Judge's warning against 'lynch law'

BY RICHARD FORD

A JUDGE gave warning yesterday of the danger of people taking the law into their own hands when he jailed a man for unlawfully imprisoning someone he suspected of burgling his home.

"People who go out looking for perpetrators of crime in order to wreak vengeance and seek information are behaving like a lynch mob," Judge Hammond told Manchester Crown Court. "Journalists think they are impressing the public by lauding the efforts of people who behave in this way. Sooner or later it is going to bring about something awful to an innocent person."

Ian Johnson, 28, was given a one-month prison sentence, suspended for a year, after he admitted unlawfully imprisoning a man. Johnson, an assistant manager at a tyre depot, thought the man could have broken into his home and stolen his father's war medals. The court was told. When he saw the man in the street, he decided on impulse to try to get information about the burglary.

Johnson, of Manchester, and a friend drove the man to an isolated spot and questioned him for 20 minutes before releasing him. The man was not charged with burglary.

Parents are told how to play down toy adverts

BY CAROL MIDDLETON

PARENTS exasperated by "pester power" — successful nagging by children who want the latest toys shown in television commercials — are being offered help by advertisers.

Jenina Das, of the Advertising Association, said that parents needed to show their children how to develop a "taste detector" and a "healthy dose of consumer scepticism" towards advertisements, as dozens more channels become available on cable and satellite.

The association, which represents advertisers and the media, has issued a free booklet, *Parent Power*, advising parents how to influence the way children look at advertisements and how to complain about ones which offend them. The guide is being distributed by the association and in the autumn term issue of *Home & School*, the magazine of the National Confederation of Parent-Teacher Associations.

Ms Das said: "When we were young, our parents only had to contend with two or three terrestrial channels and a handful of radio stations. Now there are dozens. Children grow up in a commercial world."



Kidd minutes before crashing at the show. He remains unconscious as doctors study brain scans

Doctors confirm that Kidd has brain damage

BY JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE career of one of Britain's most colourful stuntmen appeared to be over yesterday as doctors confirmed that Eddie Kidd, the daredevil motorbike rider, had suffered brain damage as a result of his accident nine days ago.

Mr Kidd, 36, has been in a coma on a life-support machine at Warwick hospital since falling from his motorbike while attempting a 50 ft leap over a speeding car at a motorbike show on August 11. He lost control of his bike after completing the jump and plunged 20 feet down an earth bank.

The former star of a Levi's jeans advert claimed the only thing that frightened him was women. His turbulent private life ensured regular appearances in the gossip columns and, occasionally, the courts.

His wife, Sarah, 28, a former waitress at the London nightclub Stringfellows whom he married four years ago, has returned from a holiday in France to be with him. The couple, who have a two-year-old son, Jack, separated briefly last October. Mr Kidd has also been visited by his first wife, the actress Debbie Ash, by whom he has a 13-year-old daughter, Candy, and his parents.

The leap at Long Marston airfield, near Stafford, which

ended in disaster was modest by Mr Kidd's standards. He is used to clearing rows of double-decker buses and recently soared over the Great Wall of China. The jump was, however, harder than it seemed: Mr Kidd had increased the danger by choosing to land on a ramp that sloped up, rather than down.

A spokeswoman for Warwick hospital said that Mr Kidd, who also has a fractured pelvis, had not regained consciousness since the accident but this was partly due to the heavy sedation he was under.

Ian Garrow, chief executive of Headway, the National Head Injuries Association, said that a person who was unconscious for more than six hours would suffer some residual deficit in physical or mental performance, although it could be difficult to detect.

"It is too early to say what the outcome for Eddie Kidd will be but for the foreseeable future he is unlikely to be able to return to his former occupation."

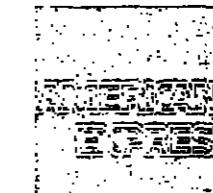
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ICE? ESUS

Advice for students in clearing

Employers favour recruits from older universities

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

EMPLOYERS are creating their own "premier league" of universities, according to a survey to assist students contemplating the clearing process, which began yesterday and gives rejected applicants a second chance of a higher education place.

Traditional universities filled almost all of the top places in a table of top British companies' main recruiting grounds. Only one new university — Glasgow Caledonian — appeared among the top 25.

The survey was conducted by Mander Portman Woodward tutorial colleges as a guide to students deciding whether to retake A levels or settle for alternative courses if they miss their chosen programmes. Joe Ruston, MPW's chairman, said students needed to know the likely status of different degrees before making their choices.

Oxford and Cambridge Universities topped the poll of 105 leading companies, almost half of which said they had definite preferences in seeking graduate recruits. Manchester, Nottingham and Leeds were the next most popular universities.

Mr Ruston said: "We wanted to see if there was a premier league of universities in the minds of employers. The results show that there is and it is important that students are aware of this when they decide whether to lower their sights in clearing."

Regional preferences and companies' links in specialist fields might have influenced the final positions, Mr Ruston said. But the overall ranking showed a general preference for the most prestigious universities.

A parallel survey last year among 155 large companies also suggested that big recruiters were concentrating their efforts on traditional universities. Although a variety of names came to the fore when the list was broken down into

COMPANY CHOICE	
1	Oxford
2	Cambridge
3	Manchester
4	Nottingham
5	Leeds
6	Birmingham
7	Loughborough
8	Bristol
9	Durham
10	UMIST
11	Warwick
12	Sheffield
13	Imperial College
14	Newcastle
15	Aston
16	Glasgow Caledonian
17	Queen Mary & Westfield
18	Strathclyde
19	Bath
20	Exeter
21	Glasgow
22	LSE

different subjects, almost all were traditional universities.

The Performance Indicator Project, run from Hartlepool College, Grantham, and Nottingham Trent University, found that Cambridge University was employers' favourite, followed by the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, Manchester, Bristol and Oxford Universities were next.

Employers are tending to concentrate on a limited number of universities, rather than join the traditional "milk-round" of interviews for graduate places. Both surveys suggest the practice was narrowing the focus of top companies, although new universities were responding with courses tailored for particular industries.

The official start of clearing showed that applicants were aware of the trends. Although most traditional universities had places available through clearing, most of the 21,000 courses with vacancies were in new universities and colleges

of higher education. Some of the leading universities had already closed their lists yesterday. Bristol University was among the first to announce that all its courses were full. Oxford and Cambridge never enter clearing.

Sheffield University had only three subject areas with more than a few vacancies. Andrew Hindmarch, who is responsible for admissions, said there had been "a polarisation of applications for a few years and students seem to be even more focused this time. We no longer have the long tail of applicants with little realistic chance of a place and there are far more with good grades."

The pace of clearing continued yesterday well ahead of previous years, with 15,000 more students confirmed on degree courses compared with the same time last year. Although 206,329 of the 290,000 places have been filled, the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service said the number of different courses with vacancies was well up on the 14,000 available at this stage a year ago. These figures suggest there are many courses with just a handful of openings which may well disappear in the next few days.

All the places on medicine, veterinary science and dentistry courses have been filled, but openings will remain in engineering and some science subjects throughout the clearing period, which lasts until the end of next month.

More than £27 million is to be made available by the Government to help students with financial problems in the new academic year. Students had hoped for an increase, but Lord Henley, the Education Minister, said the "very tough climate of funding constraints" meant that last year's figure had been maintained.

Engineering and technology vacancies, page 19



Ugly business: Woods says he was asked to look "as sinister as possible" but wasn't told about the poster

I'll be voting Labour, says man who helped to put the evil eye on Blair

By CAROL MIDGLEY

THE actor whose eyes were used to portray the hidden face of Labour revealed himself fully yesterday, as a Blair supporter who disapproved of the much-vilified Tony poster.

Scott Woods, 42, who plays a serial killer in his latest film, was recruited through Ugly, an actors' agency. He knew was being photographed for a Conservative poster, but said he was not told that his striking eyes would be superimposed on the face of the Labour leader.

The advertisement, devised by Maurice Saatchi and approved by the Tory party chairman, Brian Mawhinney, has been criticised for its use of demonic imagery. The Advertising Standards Authority has written to M & C Saatchi inviting it to defend a claim that the poster may breach the British Code of Advertising.

Donald Dewar, Labour

Chief Whip, asked the Prime Minister yesterday to scrap the advert. "Surely you will agree that personally abusive adverts of this sort fall below the standards expected of political parties," he wrote.

Yesterday Mr Woods, a former hotel manager from Hackney, northeast London, said he now regretted taking part in the campaign: "I knew that my eyes were going to be turned red and used in the poster, but they never mentioned anything about Tony Blair. If I had known, I probably wouldn't have done it. Although I think it is a clever piece of advertising, because it got people talking, I think it is far too extreme. I am not surprised there has been a backlash."

"A couple of my friends weren't very pleased with me. I believe in Tony Blair. He comes across as someone who



is changing Labour for the better. In many ways, it would have been more appropriate if they put the eyes on Major."

Mr Woods, who became a full-time actor only recently, was chosen for his menacing eyes, which are blue. In an hour-long photo session at a

studio in London, the rest of his face was blacked with make-up and he was told to look "as sinister as possible".

He would not reveal his fee, but said: "It might just about cover my phone bill."

The bachelor, who has managed hotels in France, New York and Tokyo, plays a serial killer in a forthcoming television film, *The Light House*. His other work has included playing a pirate in Ken Russell's *Treasure Island* and a security manager in a new film, *Fifth Element*, starring Bruce Willis.

He admitted yesterday to having voted Tory once, "for Mrs Thatcher in 1979", but he insisted he would be voting Labour at the general election.

A spokeswoman for Tory central office said: "Scott Woods knew from the start that he was going to be featured in the Tory party's campaign."

NEWS IN BRIEF

Children snatched by pub crawler

Three children who had crept out of their homes to beg for money last Halloween were abducted and taken on a pub crawl. Teesside Crown Court was told yesterday. The children, aged 12, 9 and 6, were pestering customers outside a pub in Stockton-on-Tees when David Cumiskey, 34, abducted them and took them to three more pubs before police found them. Cumiskey, of Barton, North Yorkshire, was jailed for nine months.

Concorde fine

Manchester Airport imposed fines on BA totalling more than £5,000 after Concorde exceeded noise limits on two weekend charter flights. British Airways claimed the "grossly unfair" limits were impossible to meet when the plane was fully loaded.

Man remanded

Duncan Birmingham, 31, of Longsight, Manchester, charged with murdering the 21-year-old graduate Rachel Thacker on August 11, was remanded in custody by Manchester magistrates. There was no application for bail.

Fire blocks sun

A fire at a scrapyard in Temple Cloud, Somerset, destroyed 300 cars, and sent up a pall of smoke that briefly obscured the sun and could be seen from Bristol, ten miles away. It was the second fire at the scrapyard in less than a month. Police suspect arson.

Cocaine charges

Two Filipino sailors were remanded in custody on drug charges after Ireland's biggest find of cocaine. They were crewmen on the Colombian ship *Front Guider*, on which 50kg of cocaine were found when it berthed in Money-point, Co Clare, last week.

Thief pulls plug

A thief climbed in through an open window of a house in Luton, Bedfordshire, and unplugged and stole a television set while its elderly owner was watching a programme. The 85-year-old woman, who was not insured, also lost a radio-cassette player.

Brocket duped in charity fraud

By A STAFF REPORTER

WHILE Lord Brocket was busy setting up a £4.5 million classic car fraud, he unwittingly aided someone else's deception. As chairman of an anti-drug charity, he signed a cheque that the charity director turned to his own use.

Brocket's own scheme earned him a five-year prison sentence in February and yesterday his colleague paid the penalty for his crime. The former minister in the Seventh Day Adventist Church was jailed for 21 months. Judge Findlay Baker, QC, ruled that Stuart Ware, 58, should also pay £28,000 from the sale of his house, an antique grandfather clock and the surrender of an endowment policy.

The charity Trust for Information and Prevention — Trip — was set up in Hertfordshire in May 1992. St Albans Crown Court was told. Its aim was to advise and educate parents about drug abuse and to set up

Meeting of minds celebrates Mensa

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

MORE than a thousand members of Mensa, the club for the intellectually overendowed, meet in London today for a week-long celebration of the organisation's 50th birthday.

They will do what tourists usually do — go on trips to museums, St Paul's, the Planetarium, and a pub-crawl — as well as taking part in "golden think-ins" on subjects such as population control, world government, crime and punishment and moral behaviour.

Mensa sets the celebration as a chance to shed its "anorak and egghead" image. Tomorrow evening's lecture by Mark Hutchence, "My Life as an Erotic Artist", offers the chance for even more adventurous thinking, as does a workshop for women on Thursday about dating.

Mensa has 38,000 members in Britain, 110,000 worldwide, who can boast that they are in the top 2 per cent of intelligence.

Shoplifter keeps job as store guard

A MAN arrested after a shoplifting expedition was now working as a supermarket detective, a court was told yesterday.

David Sultana, 24, is highly thought of by the Cardiff supermarket which employs him as a security officer. Kate Smoker, for the defence, told Gloucester Crown Court that, although Sultana had admitted four charges of theft from shops in Gloucester and Cheltenham, he would not be losing his job.

The court was told that Sultana, his brother Louis and a third man, Adrian Knight, all of Cardiff, were stopped by police on the M5 near Gloucester. In the back of their car a case containing three pairs of Next trousers, a coat, a black leather jacket and a suede coat from C&A and items from B&Q were discovered. Recorder Nigel Seed sentenced all three men to 80 hours' community service.

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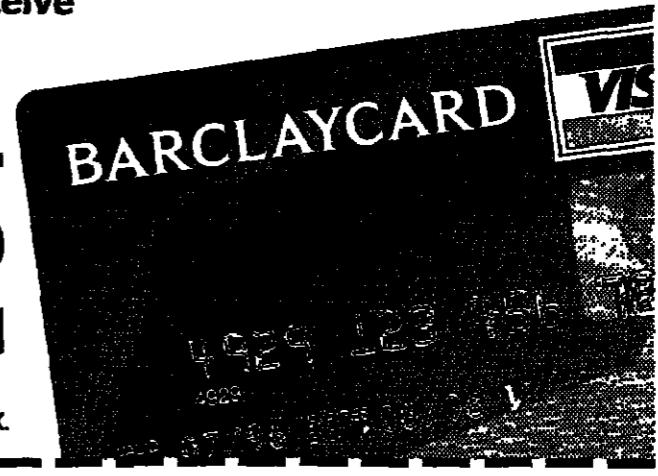
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THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 20 1996

OVERSEAS NEWS 9

Long-lost Rolling Stones film for release

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK

A FILM of a Rolling Stones concert, considered to be one of the long-lost emblems of the Sixties, is to have its first public screening in New York 28 years after the group decided that it should not be released.

The Rolling Stones Rock-and-Roll Circus features a host of stars of the 1960s, including a one-off performance by a "supergroup" consisting of John Lennon, Eric Clapton, Keith Richards and Jimi Hendrix's drummer, Mitch Mitchell. Shot at Wembley Stadium in December 1968, the hour-long film was never released because the Stones feared that their own six-song set at the end was overshadowed by The Who's rendition of *A Quick One, While He's Away*.

Decades later, the footage has been retrieved from a vault and edited by Michael Lindsay-Hogg, the producer of the Sixties TV pop show *Ready, Steady, Go*, who was the film's original director. It is to be shown on October 12 and 13 at this year's New York Film Festival. Richard Peña, chairman of the festival's selection committee, describes it as "one of the holy grails of rock filmdom".

The Rolling Stones Rock-and-Roll Circus was filmed just after the group had released *Beggars' Banquet*, still considered by many to be their finest album. Mick Jagger asked Mr Lindsay-Hogg to put together an extravagant television special.

On the guest list for the concert were many musicians now considered legendary. The then-unknown Jethro Tull got a slot at the expense of another start-up band, Led



Jagger: his group had blocked public showing

Zeppelin. Also on stage were Taj Mahal and Marianne Faithfull.

Early plans for Stevie Winwood to assemble a "supergroup" for the performance had to be dropped when he fell ill. Lennon and Clapton stepped in to join Richards and Mitchell in playing the Beatles' *Yer Blues*.

Filming was beset by technical difficulties, with the result that the Rolling Stones did not perform until 2am. By then they looked washed out. When they did get on stage, the group gave their last public performance with Brian Jones.

The footage remained in the can until 1989 when Allen Klein, the band's manager at the time, reached an agreement over rights to their unreleased material. Mr Klein will see if refection next month justifies wider release.

Snakes rescued in Indian police swoop



A charmer holds a poisonous snake near his mouth. Yesterday police arrested two dozen snake handlers

Delhi: Tipped off by animal rights activists, Indian authorities arrested two dozen snake charmers before the start of a Hindu festival celebrating serpents. The United News of India news agency said yesterday.

The agency said wildlife officials swooped on the charmers and seized nearly 100 snakes as they were preparing for the Nag Panchami festival in the central city of Nagpur.

The charmers were charged by police under the Wildlife Protection Act and the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, the agency added. The police were tipped off by a local section of the Society for

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

Hindus regard snakes as symbols of divinity and do not feed them after they are captured but offer them milk, which herpetologists claim they do not drink.

Often the snake charmer repeatedly dunks the reptile's head in a pail of milk, drowning it, a practice which wildlife wardens are trying to stamp out.

The festival of Nag Panchami attracts snake charmers from different parts of India and gives them a chance to display their snake-catching and handling abilities without removing a snake's poison. (Reuters/AP)



Demonstrators confront police after smashing their way into Parliament House. They chanted "Johnny, we're coming to get you" to show their anger at budget cuts

Protesters storm parliament

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

MORE than 60 Australian police and demonstrators were injured yesterday when hundreds of trade unionists, students and Aborigines invaded Parliament House in Canberra and looted and destroyed a gift shop.

They were protesting against the first budget of John Howard, the Prime Minister, since the conservative Liberal-National Party coalition won power from Labor in March. Mr Howard was inside the building during the trouble. Forty-nine people were arrested after the rally erupted into violence. Four officers were detained in hospital, including a policewoman who had suspected broken ribs and an officer who had acid thrown in his eyes.

The official demonstration, organised by the Australian Council of Trade Unions, attracted union members from all over the country who wanted to voice their opposition to £2 billion-worth of cuts expected to be announced in today's budget.

The budget, which has been widely leaked, includes big reductions in education and aboriginal spending, as well as cuts to labour market programmes. Thousands of government employees will lose their jobs.

Elsewhere in the country, unions shut down ports, coal mines, building sites and manufacturing plants so that workers could take part in the protest. Thousands of workers also joined rallies in Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth and Hobart. Rioters wielded sledgehammers and makeshift battering rams to storm the building, which afterwards resembled a battleground. The floor was littered with debris and splattered with blood.

It took the police, with many officers in riot gear, more than two hours to regain control as demonstrators ran amok shouting: "Johnny, we're coming to get you".

Much of the trouble appeared to have been caused by a breakaway group which left a main rally of nearly 15,000 people.

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Some of the demonstrators swarmed over the top of the building, the forecourt and grass verges alongside the main entrance. One protester unfurled a banner on the roof.

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FROM RICHARD OWEN
IN ROME

AS ITALIANS begin the long trek home this week after the mid-August Ferragosto break, the Hard Left has threatened to bring down the Government over public sector wage claims, reform of the welfare state and the planned privatisation of the telecommunications and energy sectors.

Fausto Bertinotti, leader of Rifondazione Comunista, on whose 35 Hard Left MPs Romano Prodi depends in parliament, said that the Government had only "a 50 per cent chance" of surviving an "autumn of discontent". Any attempt to

bypass the Hard Left over privatisation of the state-run telecommunications company Stet would cause an immediate crisis, he said.

The centre-left Prodi Government took office in May vowing to end the cycle of Italian "revolving-door governments" and to serve a full five years. But it is suddenly looking vulnerable. Not only has the ambiguity of its parliamentary dependence on the Hard Left been exposed, it also faces challenge from the separatist Northern League, whose fiery and unpredictable leader, Umberto Bossi, has promised to hold a march along the valley of the Po next month to define the borders of the new state

of "Padania". Signor Bossi language has become increasingly militant, not to say bizarre, leading his disenchanted deputy, Irene Pivetti — the former Speaker — to accuse him of becoming "mentally unbalanced".

She favours autonomy but not separation, she said. But yesterday Signor Bossi insisted that the setting up of a north Italian state would begin with a tax revolt against Rome by his followers. He also threatened to burn down the transmitters of RAI, the state broadcasting company, seen as a symbol of national unity.

Signor Bertinotti said in an interview with *Corriere della Sera*

that the Hard Left understood the importance of helping Professor Prodi to stop the North seceding. But Rifondazione had been dismayed by hints at the weekend from Walter Veltroni, the young ex-Communist Deputy Prime Minister, that the Government might do a deal with the centre-right opposition to push privatisation legislation through. "I wonder if Walter understands the seriousness of what he is saying," Signor Bertinotti said. "If the coalition changes that will be the end of the Prodi Government".

The "Olive Tree" coalition, composed of both centrists and former Communists in the Party of the

Democratic Left, has until now enjoyed the traditional 100-day honeymoon, with Rifondazione Comunista soft pedalling its demands. But the new row strikes at the heart of Professor Prodi's efforts to bring Italy's economy more closely into line with the Maastricht criteria for a single currency by reducing the budget deficit through public spending cuts, lowering inflation to 3 per cent and privatising the telecommunications and energy sectors.

It is desperate to qualify for monetary union by 1999 and Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the former Prime Minister and central banker who holds the combined Treasury and

French celebrities support Africans' Paris church sit-in

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

HUNDREDS of protesters, including media celebrities, clerics and politicians, set up a human shield yesterday around a Paris church where ten African immigrants began the 46th day of a hunger strike under the threat of imminent expulsion.

The Government has rejected the group's demands for residence papers and as rumours that the police were about to eject the Africans by force spread through Paris over the weekend, hundreds of supporters flocked to the Saint Bernard Church in the heavily immigrant Goutte d'Or district.

The hunger-strikers, mostly Malian men in their 20s and 30s, are part of a group of 300 immigrant Africans who have occupied the church since June 28. Many of the protesters have lived in France for years, according to their supporters, but now face expulsion under tough immigration laws passed in 1993. At the weekend one of the African protesters gave birth, the sixth in the group since the occupation began.

Their demonstration has become the summer's left-wing

cause célèbre and many veterans from the 1968 student demonstrations were mingling yesterday with younger protesters in the crowd waiting outside the church for the expected eviction. Posters have been displayed throughout the area calling on local residents to join the human shield if the church bells sound a warning that riot police are on the way.

Emmanuelle Béart, the actress, has spent three nights sleeping alongside the hunger strikers in the church and being photographed outside. "I am ashamed of my country," she said. Léon Schwartzenberg, a renowned cancer expert, chained himself to one of the hunger strikers on Sunday when the alarm was falsely raised. Danielle Mitterrand, the widow of the former President, has voiced her support for the group and on Sunday Jacques Attali, François Mitterrand's former adviser, also joined the demonstrators.

Several other notables, including Jacques Derrida, the philosopher, have offered to house the immigrants, while Jacques Gaillot, the outspoken former Bishop of Evreux

ousted by the Vatican for his liberal views, broke off a retreat in a Trappist monastery to back the hunger-strikers, some of whom are dangerously weak, according to volunteer doctors.

Unions at Air France, the state-owned airline, called on pilots and the company chairman not to fly the Africans out of the country if they were expelled.

The demonstration has quickly established its own ritual, with copious coffee, regular bulletins from Abubakar Diop, the protesters' spokesman, and chants of "Français! Immigrés! Solidarité!" (French people! Immigrants! Solidarity!).

The hunger-strikers have called on President Chirac to intervene and the Socialist Party said the Government should reopen negotiations. But last week the Government insisted that it would no longer tolerate the protest and Eric Raoult, the Minister for Integration, said: "The law must be applied."

Jean-Louis Débré, the Interior Minister, and Alain Juppé, the Prime Minister, said that relaxing the laws for the Saint Bernard hunger-strikers would unleash a fresh flood of illegal immigration.

"The stakes are high because beyond these few hundred people are thousands of other illegal immigrants," M Juppé said, while M Débré said that "yielding to blackmail would be a cowardly and tragic decision".

There are estimated to be more than a million illegal immigrants in France, as well as about four million legal foreign residents.

The protest has evolved into a test case of the Government's determination to crack down on illegal immigration, but with the far-right National Front demanding swift and stringent action and the Left calling for leniency, the Government faces an acute public relations dilemma.



An immigrant and her child yesterday at the church in Paris where six babies have been born during the sit-in

Spain besieged by wave of illegal immigrants

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN IN MADRID

SPAIN, only 12 miles from impoverished Morocco at the Strait of Gibraltar's narrowest stretch, is reeling from an unprecedented wave of North African "webbacks".

The term, first coined for Mexicans who crossed illegally into Texas by traversing the Rio Grande, is now used to describe Moroccans who attempt to cross the strait to Spain in flimsy plywood boats. Yesterday the Spanish coast guard detained 40 illegal North African immigrants, including one heavily pregnant woman, near the port of Algeciras, bringing the total apprehended along Spain's southern coast in the past week to more than 300.

Interior Ministry sources reveal that nearly 2,000 North Africans have been detained while trying to cross the strait since January, two-thirds of them since June. Overwhelmed, the maritime service of the Spanish Civil Guard has appealed to Madrid for help. "We simply cannot cope with the inadequate resources we have at present," a patrol boat captain

said yesterday. Speaking at the weekend, after more than a hundred Moroccans had been detained off the port of Tarifa, Isalas Pérez, councillor for Social Affairs in the regional government, said: "Andalusia cannot be the sole watchdog against illegal immigration into Europe from

Andalusia cannot be the sole watchdog against illegal immigration in Europe."

the Maghreb. We cannot, only with defensive measures, be the guardians of the West. This wave of immigrants will not stop until the EU takes steps to improve the economic situation in the countries from which they come.

Spanish authorities blame immigration gangs in Morocco

for the recent surge in attempted crossings, accusing them of "twisting facts to swindle desperate people".

Madrid has announced that this Friday will be the cut-off date for foreigners already in the country with limited work-permits to apply for residence permits. Those running illegal immigration rackets across the strait have distorted the details, telling would-be immigrants that anyone living in Spain before the cut-off date — irrespective of the length of their stay — would be entitled to residence rights.

Some Moroccans paid up to £650 to gangs in Tangier for their clandestine night-time crossing, a sum which is a third of the country's annual per capita income. For the majority it is money ill-spent: nine out of every ten people attempting the crossing are detained and repatriated to Morocco. Several others perished at sea.

Officially, only 65,000 Moroccans live in Spain, although an equal number are believed to be working in the country illegally.

Goose cull grounded by flares

Christchurch: A planned mid-air mass killing of thousands of Canada geese in New Zealand had to be called off yesterday when protesters began firing flares. A local conservation group was going to use shooters in helicopters to kill 3,500 geese at Ellerslie, south of here, in an

Coup plot date just slips by

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL
IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW marked the fifth anniversary of the failed coup that triggered the collapse of the Soviet Union with apathy and indifference yesterday.

Just 25 "White House defectors", from among those who stood for three days at barricades facing the tanks of the coup plotters, gathered in pleasant sunshine for a photo session outside the former parliament building that was the hub of resistance to the attempted coup. One man played an accordion, another brandished a huge white-blue-and-red Russian tricolour.

"I'm happy that five years have passed and what we achieved has stayed in place," said Nikolai Rogozin, a pensioner. "The presidential elections proved that the Communists could not turn the clock back."

No state money has been allocated to organisers of a series of small demonstrations and concerts to mark the anniversary. It is a stark contrast to the grand celebrations that marked the collapse of the coup in August 1991. President Yeltsin, who memorably climbed on to a tank to denounce the putsch, made no public comment yesterday and was said to be "working on documents" in his country residence outside Moscow.

The President's new press secretary, Sergei Yastrzhembsky, denied reports in *Time* magazine that Mr Yeltsin is going to have a heart operation abroad and said he was having a "routine medical inspection" before going on holiday.

said there would be no more shooting until next year.

Last year's cull of 3,000 birds on the lake was described as barbaric by local protesters. The council wanted to statutorily oblige to reduce the population to 6,500 by 1998. (APF)

Magnificent seven airmen return to hero's welcome

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

SEVEN Russian airmen returned home to a hero's welcome that triggered the collapse of the Soviet Union with apathy and indifference yesterday.

The nation, badly in need of good news after the conflict in Chechnya and President Yeltsin's deteriorating health, was gripped by the men's dramatic return.

"There is no greater happiness than being home," said Captain Vladimir Sharpatov, the pilot of the Ilyushin-70 that was intercepted more than a year ago by the rebel Taliban forces in Afghanistan. They were held hostage in the

southern city of Kandahar. Kazinur Khairullin, the copilot, captured the mood of the nation when he said: "The Taliban wanted to humiliate Russia by capturing and holding us. But they failed."

Minifir Shamiyev, the President of Tatarstan, an autonomous republic in Russia, hosted a welcome home party attended by relatives and well-wishers and thanked the men for their "heroic deed, endurance and the character they showed". The crew will be guests of honour next week at the Kremlin when President Yeltsin is due to present bravely medals.

The Russians, who were flying munitions from Albania to the Afghan Government in Kabul when their cargo plane was intercepted by Taliban jets 12 months ago, made their escape on Friday. Under the pretence of servicing the aircraft, they started the engines taking off seconds before cars tried to block the runway.

The aircraft flew at treetop level before reaching the safety of Iranian air space. It touched down at Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates.

"I can still see the two cars trying to block the runway," Captain Sharpatov said. "When we landed in Sharjah, my hands were shaking. But we did it! We did it!"



Captain Vladimir Sharpatov, far right, who masterminded the dramatic escape from the Taliban in Afghanistan, with his crew on their return to Moscow

Serbian arms are destroyed

FROM STACY SULLIVAN
IN SARAJEVO

THE Nato peace force in Bosnia yesterday began blowing up a 300-tonne cache of Bosnian Serb munitions as part of "Operation Volcano" despite threats that Nato soldiers would be attacked.

By mid-afternoon about 30 tonnes of explosives, mostly mines, had been destroyed in a site 3ft below ground. It is expected that the whole task will take nearly all week.

Nearly 2,000 Nato troops clogged the road leading to the site, in the village of Margeric about 20 miles east of Sarajevo, to provide protection. Nato helicopters hovered overhead to keep bystanders clear.

Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Walker, the British commander of Nato ground troops in Bosnia, decided to destroy the cache after a routine patrol found it in a school two weeks ago. Under the Dayton Peace Accord all weapons and ammunition storage areas were to have been declared and submitted for Nato inspection months ago.

At the weekend a Bosnian Serb television broadcast announced: "This open threat of using force by the [Nato] command ... represents a dangerous provocation." At the same time, threatening leaflets in English were distributed to Nato troops near the sites. Nato soldiers were put on high alert.

Belgrade A Malta-bound Russian Ilyushin-76 transport plane crashed yesterday near Belgrade airport in Yugoslavia, killing all 12 people on board, after turning back and attempting an emergency landing. (Reuters)

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POLAND

E129

NO DEPOSIT

10 DAY PERIODS WITH HALF PAY TO

LAUNDRY IN THE BEAUTIFUL TATRA MOUNTAINS

MILLENNIUM

0121 711 4821



Harpoons land runaway drivers

Helsinki: Police in Finland plan to start using a harpoon-like device to catch runaway drivers, according to Finnish television, which showed a patrol car with a harpoon gun fixed on its front bumper being demonstrated in the northern city of Oulu. Chasing a runaway vehicle, the patrol car draws near and the tubular steel harpoon pierces the boot of the fleeing car.

Hydraulically operated bars are released, keeping the harpoon in place. The runaway driver is then forced to stop as the patrol car's front bumper is hit. A radio transmitter in the harpoon allows police to

keep track of the vehicle should the shaft break. The device also gives police the option to spray teargas from the harpoon.

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You're only as ugly as you feel

Why do perfectly normal people believe they are the spitting image of the Elephant Man? Joe Joseph investigates the disturbing modern syndrome of 'imagined ugliness'

In more carefree days, even good-looking men or women could visit their physician and say, "Doc, what's the quickest way to get rid of 10lb of ugly fat?" and he could reply, "Why not just chop your head off?" and then they'd guffaw helplessly all the way back to their copy of the *Les Dawson* jokebook.

Nowadays, many men and women who suffer from something called "imagined ugliness" might actually go searching for a guillotine.

You didn't believe such a thing could exist, but then you didn't believe *Nasa* would find a way to wangle more funds for space research, especially after seeing those expensive but indecipherable pictures from the Hubble telescope.

We have all come across examples of delusory "imagined ugliness syndrome" (the witch in *Snow White*, Demi Moore, Robert Kilroy-Silk) and even "imagined funniness syndrome" (Bob Monkhouse, Fergie, MPs), but imagined ugliness is, to most of us, a novel concept.

We are not talking about people who daydream about looking like Catherine Deneuve and then get on with their grocery shopping. We're talking about people to whom "Why was he born so beautiful, why was he born at all?" is not an ironic rugby song refrain but an existential dilemma.

Where did this dramatic new anxiety spring from?

A survey just published by the Royal College of Psychiatrists tells us that thousands of people are sufferers of "imagined ugliness". Men have faces, but women are their faces. Susan Sontag once said, which may be why most

sufferers seem to be women. The number is swelling as advertisements and magazines offer computer-enhanced stereotypes that you could compete with only if you were Emmanuelle Béart or a narcissist with a fancier imagination than Walter Mitty.

Victims of the disorder become obsessed with teeny, often imagined defects: faint wrinkles, a large nose, or a small bald patch — nothing is too minor to be magnified in the victim's mind into a major physical curse. The effects can be so serious that the sufferer becomes depressed, or even suicidal.

The most famous sufferer of imagined ugliness, according to David Veale, consultant psychiatrist at London's Royal Free Hospital, is probably Michael Jackson, the chalky pop star who seems to be metamorphosing into Diana Ross.

"Michael Jackson seems to be a clear case," Dr Veale told a conference of psychiatrists in London recently. "He has had more than 30 cosmetic surgery operations, his nose is reported to be crumpling, and his ex-wife



Demi Moore: her own greatest fan

Lisa Presley has said that he would never take off his make-up, even in bed.

Now Dr Veale has begun wondering if imagined ugliness syndrome might be endemic in the skin-deep world of showbusiness, where stars seem continually to be changing their appearances with cosmetic surgery.

Cher is famous for cutting slices out of her body as frequently as the rest of us cut slices out of our birthday cakes. And Pamela Anderson is one of many Californian blondes who are so worried about drowning in the Pacific that they have had a pair of personal

flotation tanks implanted into their breasts.

Now, even if you happen to believe that we should think twice about how we present ourselves to the world, are you sure that the right people are doing the worrying? And are they worrying about the right things?

Our anxieties have turned topsy-turvy. How topsy-turvy? A survey in America found that more women are scared of getting fat than of getting cancer. If you think it is sad that grown human beings, who have enough intelligence to make their own breakfast, would rather get cancer than look a tad too plump for their bikini, it is even sadder that imagined ugliness is measured solely on physical attributes the way people look

often plays only a small part in how we gauge their ugliness. Their habits and possessions can be more pivotal.

Someone in Harold Pinter's play *Party Time* asks: "Is it silly to say I feel proud? I mean to be part of the society of beautifully dressed people. God, I don't know — elegance, style, grace, taste. Don't these words, these concepts, mean anything more?" I'm not alone, am I, in thinking them incredibly important?

No, darling, you're not alone. It's not quite the message Pinter was trying to get across, but these things often are incredibly important.

Think of it as style over substance. Just look at how Diana Vreeland, the former Editor of *American Vogue*, was lauded as

the epitome of style and also managed to turn her gnomic pronouncements ("pink is the navy blue of India") into the fashion world's Ten Commandments — even though her face bore more resemblance to Arthur Askey's than to Marilyn Monroe's. The Duchess of Windsor was thought a style guru even though she could have dug a trench with her chin.

We and the sufferers of "imagined ugliness syndrome" clearly measure attractiveness with different slide-rules. As far as we're concerned, a Roman nose can be quite arresting. A bad-hair day can be fixed with a decent shampoo, or a roomy hat. Quasimodo was just another lovestruck romantic underneath that hideously swollen back. Listen, Venus de Milo hasn't

even got any arms, for Pete's sake. At least the sufferers of imagined ugliness have Dr Veale working on their case. Who is committed to curing all the other victims of self-delusion?

They people we feel increasingly sorry for are the ones in Lamborghini who assume that passers-by are mouthing the word "Wow", when what we're actually mouthing is "Wally!" Lamborghini drivers are afflicted with "imagined stylishness" syndrome.

The people who attract our derision are not the ones who stare into every mirror in search of fresh blemishes, but the mirror-obsessed "imagined attractiveness" sufferers who feel a warm glow

inside each time they glimpse their own reflection: who are rich enough to afford Armani, but not smart enough to realise they've been sold the wrong size; who enter Miss World competitions not because they want the world to realise they're egocentric 19-year-olds who like to go swimming in stilts, but because they want the world to realise they're really Mother Teresa; people who hear Carly Simon singing, "You're so vain, you probably think this song is about you", and do. Even though they've never met her.

These people are in just as much need of a kindly doctor's help. Sufferers of "imagined attractiveness syndrome", we salute you! Provided, that is, you haven't already saluted yourself.

On the face of it, *In the Psychiatrist's Chair* is a programme perfectly pitched for an age hooked on therapy. It purports to give us an expert's view of the psyche of famous people. And, still more enjoyably, it provides a vicarious taste of what it might be like to enjoy the one-to-one attentions of an eminent psychiatrist.

For many people Anthony Clare, the presenter, is as fascinating as those he meets. What we would say during our half-hour in his chair, and what observations he might make about us, has become a

national daydream to rival choosing one's desert island discs.

But is the impression of therapeutic confidentiality anything more than a broadcasting scam? What is it actually like to sit in the professor's famous chair? And do his "victims" feel cleansed or cauterised by his sharp insights?

On closer inspection, the most curious thing about the series is that it is chaired by a psychiatrist who is suspicious of long-term psychotherapy and who does not believe in "offloading", while many of his guests take a similar view.

"I have never been involved with any form of therapy and I don't believe in introspection," says Sir Randolph Fiennes, the Arctic explorer. Martin Bell, the BBC war reporter whose prickly performance was a star turn of the current series, is just as blunt: "I have a strong feeling that people should sort themselves out. If you became too dependent on this kind of quackery, and someone took the crutch away you'd walk with a limp for the rest of your life." Even Claire Rayner, best known as an agony aunt, is dismissive.

"I don't need purging. I'm not a Diana. High-class irrigation is not my bag."

Nevertheless, since 1982, more than 100 people have entered the basement studio at Broadcasting House, having received a letter from the producer Michael Ember. They don't all accept for the same reason. "There's a huge element of flattery to being asked," says Claire Rayner. "It's a Radio 4 flagship programme." But as she ruefully admits, she became "the flag on the flagship" when she broke down in tears describing the emotional abuse she suffered from her parents as a child.

Alice Thomas, Nicholas Mosley and Martin Bell all had books to promote while Carla Lane was promised that she would be able to "get her message over" about live exports. Even so, she had reservations. "I'd only heard the programme once before, but all you could hear was I, I, I. It seemed really self-indulgent. So initially I was going to refuse, but my sister told me that it was fabulous and I must go on."

Potential interviewees are offered a choice of three dates, and most of the programmes are recorded in the evening. "It was the most uneventful night," says Ms Lane. "Anthony Clare was half an hour late. Then I was shown into a small, dull grey room with fluorescent light that had been subdued. We sat in this ordinary office with a table so ordinary that I can't remember it well enough to give a description."

Very little socialising takes place. Martin Bell chatted to Professor Clare for ten minutes before the programme and ten minutes afterwards. The only hint at informality

In the chair and off guard



Agony aunt Claire Rayner broke down in tears on the show

was a bottle of chilled white wine placed in the middle of the table. Bell, determined to remain on his guard, did not partake. As Nicholas Mosley remarks: "It was all rather quick and professional."

In part, this may be intended to mirror the experience of visiting a psychiatrist. (Though Clare was gradually abandoned any pretence of psychiatric impersonation during the interviews.) More likely it is simply a reflection of his and his guests' busy schedules.

But however dull the room, or great the guest's scepticism, there is no doubt that Clare elicits genuine revelations. If he fails, it is usually because the guests are particularly well equipped to stonewall. "There were no revelations. I

was delighted," says Sir Randolph Fiennes. "He ended up saying to me with a smile on his face that it was rather like stirring a void with a teaspoon. I think that by mistake I was reverting to many years of army training in resistance to interrogation."

"It's no good stonewalling throughout this is a psychiatrist after your more intimate dimension," concedes Martin Bell. "But you go in with certain defensive positions to fall back on. I decided that one of the best ones was to counter-attack. I feel quite strongly that there's too much psychiatry going on, so I was able to give my deeply held views about that."

"Also, I really did have a deeply happy childhood, which must get him on the

back foot from the start.

"I'm rather proud of my relationship with my children, and he was very kind in not going on too much about my marriages, of which I've had two. I didn't want to talk about my second marriage. It wasn't a happy time and I'm not very proud of it."

But in some cases Clare does ask awkward questions. And sometimes the defences do come down, without him seeming to provoke this. Carla Lane was one of those who opened up unintentionally.

"Because the lighting was subdued and because he's so quiet I found myself telling him things which I never really intended to tell."

The interviews take anything from an hour and a

half and two hours, and are then edited down to 40 minutes. No one seems to have found producer Michael Ember's decisions unfair.

Few of his guests, however, seem prepared to admit that they learnt anything from the experience — and perhaps they didn't — but there was a consensus that Clare had got the measure of them.

Even Bell concedes: "Listening to little bits of the tape I thought I could have been more forthcoming. When he was getting somewhere I should have said, 'Oh yes, that's right.'"

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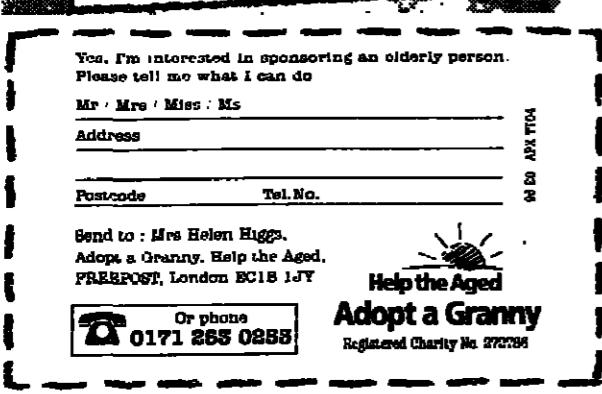
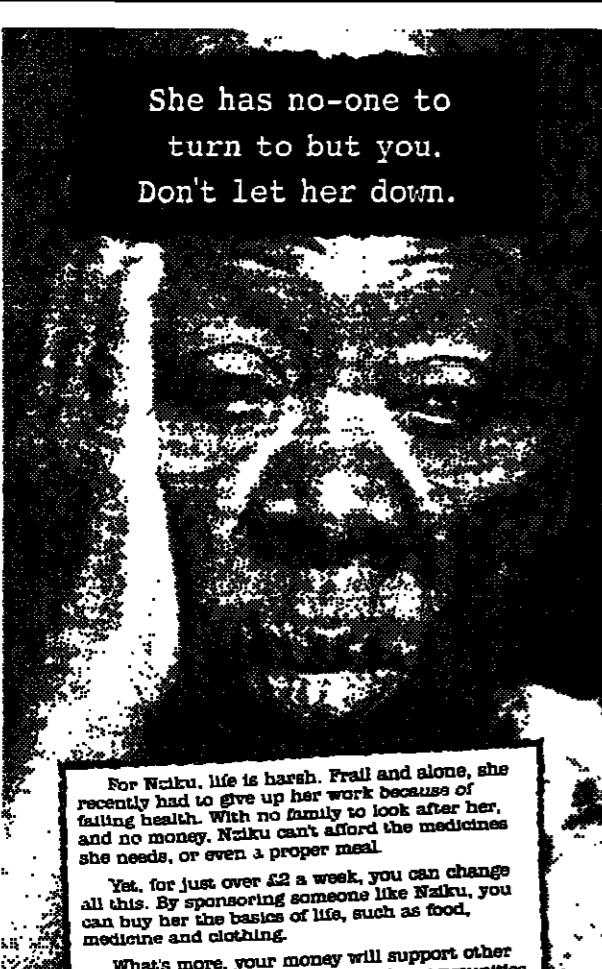
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Pictures: RON GALELLA (left), AP (right)

How Jane found true love in the desert with an Arab sheikh

Concluding our two-part story of the life and loves of a Victorian beauty who scandalised her age

AFTER her divorce from Lord Ellenborough, and abandoned by Prince Felix, Jane Ellenborough had many affairs, including one with a German king. She married twice more but neither husbands nor lovers could make her happy. After her last lover was unfaithful to Jane with her own maid, Jane sailed for Syria, vowing to renounce all men henceforth...

BY NOW, Jane was almost 50, still beautiful and speaking nine languages. Near Damascus, she met the man hired to escort her to Palmyra, the ruined city 200 miles into the desert, to which only the Mezrab tribe had passage rights. He was Sheikh Medjuel el Mazzab, a striking figure dressed in the flowing scarlet cloak and gold insignia of a desert prince. He was a cultured man in his late twenties, roughly the age that, had he lived, Jane's son by Lord Ellenborough would have been. He spoke several languages, and unusually for a Bedu, he could read and write Arabic.

Because of the physical demands and dangers of the journey, few Europeans had ever visited Palmyra, and the British consul tried to put a stop to Jane's dangerous resolution of riding alone into the desert with an Arab escort.

Nevertheless, she set out in early June 1853, dressed as an Arab on what she would ever after call the "greatest adventure, probably, of all my journeys". Medjuel wore his usual clothes — scarlet cloak over striped shift, a bright silk *keffiyeh* on his head. Around his waist he had wound and knotted several coloured scarves and into this wide sash had thrust a number of knives and pistols. Around his neck was a silken cord upon which hung a sword, and on his feet were red leather boots with upturned toes. On his wrist he carried a hooded hawk. This final touch was not showmanship; the bird would be used to catch small birds and game as fresh food on the journey, as would his saluki hunting dogs.

Two years and many adventures later, having agreed that they would spend half the year in the tents of his tribe in the desert and the other half in Damascus, Jane and Medjuel were married. Despite the age difference, Jane knew that Medjuel was the love of her life. He was an ardent man and their first physical union was "more like a real wedding night than any since Lord Ellenborough".

Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th, Friday 30th, Saturday 2nd, Sunday 3rd, Monday 4th, Tuesday 5th
All day d'or and de joie, passed in delightful intercourse with this sim-

HIDDEN HISTORY

ple, upright and affectionate character. May I not be deceived (as usually)...

Thursday April 14th Today... my dream has begun its accomplishment. I leave Damascus for the loved desert with my adored, and adoring, Medjuel. His "slave". Oh that I had 20 years less to excuse this last folly.

Their honeymoon, in the spring of 1855, was the happiest period in Jane's life. She was travelling in the



Jane Digby in Arab dress and her sheikh

desert, not as a tourist but as the wife of a desert prince. All the adventure and romance she had ever craved was now fulfilled, and Medjuel offered her all the tenderness she had ever sought.

THEY arrived at Palmyra one sunset and camped in a nice place out of the town amongst gardens with a tepid spring under a cluster of palm trees, of which I profited at night to bathe by a splendid moonlight.

It was a sensual pleasure to wash the sand from her hair and body, and she was inordinately proud that she had kept her youthful figure and agility as Medjuel sat and watched her while she bathed. Later, when she thanked him for the happiness he had brought her as he promised, "he replied in the kindest and simplest manner, 'Badein [Later], you shall see if I do not keep my word in all things.'

We removed the tents into a little garden of palms and olives. And ever, ever, shall I remember the happy fortnight I passed there. It may have been for the all-engrossing happiness of the honeymoon I have forgotten time and date!

Extract from *A Scandalous Life: The Biography of Jane Digby* by Mary S. Lovell, published in paperback by Fourth Estate, £8.99. Copyright Mary S. Lovell 1995.

tribe. It was unheard of for a Bedu to marry outside the tribal system, but Jane became used to "the utter astonishment of other Bedu at this European wife". Was she the daughter of a bondwoman, they wondered. Perhaps the whiteness of her skin was due to leprosy? The tenderness of her feet was remarked by "soft gulping noises of pity", and necessitated her wearing kid slippers when all other women went barefoot.

Jane recognized that her European aristocratic background meant nothing to the Bedu. They did not regard her as *asil* (noble) for they believed only the Bedu to be of pure blood. They were a lean, hard, proud people who were not prepared to take an outsider at face value, despite her dowry of a flock of sheep and herd of camels. She had Medjuel's protection, but it took time to win their respect and approval.

Though they appeared content, Jane considered the lives of Bedu women desperately hard, their lot one of unequal concubinage and weary servitude. It was not easy for her in those early days of her marriage. Until she acquired the Bedu patois, she felt isolated, especially among the women. She learnt how to milk a camel and carry the bowl of warm frothy liquid to Medjuel, and to make *leben*, a cheese, from soured camel

milk. The woman who throughout her life had been served by hundreds of retainers (even in Damascus her staff were numbered in dozens) had to be taught how to keep the fire alight with faggots and roots gathered from the desert, or with dried camel droppings. She revelled in her new knowledge, performing her tasks with increasing expertise as an offering of affection to Medjuel.

She became the matriarch of the tribe. She rode into bathe at Medjuel's side, was midwife, vet, diplomat, judge and financier to "her" tribe. She even represented them at gatherings of chieftains. Her wisdom and generous financial support enabled the Mezrab to become a powerful voice in the desert.

She died in Damascus aged 74. Her beloved Medjuel, leading her favourite horse, headed a Bedu guard of honour at her funeral. He never remarried. During Jane's lifetime, eight novels, including one by her friend Balzac, were based on her extraordinary life. Her house and grave in Damascus are still extant; her diaries are in the hands of her family in Dorset.

Extract from *A Scandalous Life: The Biography of Jane Digby* by Mary S. Lovell, published in paperback by Fourth Estate, £8.99. Copyright Mary S. Lovell 1995.

The journey to the tents of Medjuel's tribe took some days. On arrival, there seemed so much to learn, chiefly the customs of the

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The sinister rise of the extreme Right

ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE

In the final part of his report, Roger Boyes reports from Prague on the dangers of resurgent nationalism

The Czechs like to compare Miroslav Sládek to Mr Bean. There he is on the poster for the far-Right Republican Party: tall, gaunt, dark hair, pale face. You can guess, even from an election picture, that he is physically uncoordinated and, well, fanatical.

"No," said a man with body-building credentials, "Mr Sládek is not seeing journalists." Quietly he was joined by three other men with matching biceps. In a solid Roman phalanx they moved forward as I stumbled quickly out of Mr Sládek's Prague office.

I had met similar people before: ultra-Rightists, spinning pistols on their index fingers, in Zagreb; the skin-head *gard du corps* of Boleslav Tejkowski who claims that the Pope is a Jew; the German organisers of the Free Workers Party who belch in your face. However smartly they are dressed, you cannot escape the feeling that they left their black shirts in the laundry.

Mr Sládek's Republicans are anti-Gypsy, anti-Semitic, anti-foreigner and anti-foreign correspondent; they won 18 seats in the Czech general elections. It should be possible to write them off as an oddity. But their presence in Prague — where Jewish, German and Czech cultures have intertwined for centuries — is sinister and disturbing.

Even in the bad times, Prague's relationship with its Jews was never quite as brittle as that of Warsaw. Yet Mr Sládek is still capable of threatening to send "unsatisfied Jewish co-citizens back to their Promised Land".

Mr Sládek is firmly in the tradition of the newly emerging nationalist Right in Europe. The 1989-90 revolutions in Eastern Europe were built on the basis of anti-communist coalition.

Communist parties changed leaders and programmes, but survived, keeping organisation and funding. The Right splintered, and splintered again. The result has been a jumble of voices, from Thatcherite conservative to extreme nationalist.

Michael Shafir, a senior analyst with Open Media Research Institute in Prague, sees essentially two variants of anti-Semitic nationalism. Radical continuity parties extract elements from the communist rule of the preceding 50 years: parties of radical return hark back to earlier days — the true path was set in the 1930s.

The anti-Semitism of the far-Right infiltrates into everyday political vocabulary. Alek-za Lebed made what appeared to be a throwaway remark about Judaism during the Russian election campaign and many, it seems, approved.

Anti-Semitism cannot be eradicated by government decree. As the Hungarian writer Pal Bodor says: "Anti-Semitism is eternal like gravity. One can assume that there is anti-Semitism on Mars, even if there is no life there."

When anti-Semitism is scapegoating, rather than part of a system of belief, it can be even more dangerous," warns a Polish poet (of Jewish origin). "Today you attack a Gypsy caravan because you are unhappy, unemployed and drunk. The Gypsies move away. Nothing changes in your life. Who do you blame next? Who is next on the list?"

Mainstream politicians can make a difference: they can shun the anti-Semitic fringe; they can make sure that courts give appropriate sentences to anti-Semites.

Scope does exist, however, in the more robust civil societies, like the Czech Republic, for parties to become explicitly pro-Semitic, to project a



Skinheads march in support of plans for a shopping centre at Auschwitz — a project halted by the Polish President

IMAGINE the delight of the developer: a prime site, cheaply bought, near a medium-sized town in southern Poland, the "tiger" economy of the east. Hundreds of thousands of foreign visitors pass by, hungry mouths for a fast food restaurant.

The flaw in this otherwise sure-fire business plan becomes apparent when you ask for details of the town — Oswiecim, better known by its German name of Auschwitz. The developer received the go-ahead from local authorities, building work began — with the blessing of the museum director.

proper counterweight to the radical Right. Certainly Rafael Gvir, the Israeli Ambassador to Prague, sees social support for such a development. "Suddenly there is a great fascination in all things Jewish; in the Hebrew language, in Jewish literature, in Judaism — a wish even to declare oneself Jewish or to find Jewish ancestors." A Czech rock band calls itself Shalom, although it has no Jewish connections, and teenagers wear Stars of David round their necks. As far as the Ambassador is concerned: "There is no anti-Semitism any more but there are anti-Semites."

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AUSCHWITZ

But the headline "Supermarket Auschwitz" torpedoed the project, enraged the world Jewish community.

It will take generations before Poles and Jews will be able to work out a common history that is sensitive to the needs of both nations. Before the war three million Jews lived in Poland; today there are only a few thousand.

During the communist era, the Poles were reluctant even to admit that Jews were the main victims of Auschwitz.

The Polish President not only personally bans the shopping mall, but also expresses public regret and shame for the vicious Polish postwar pogroms against Jews.

The terms of their relationship are slowly changing, though many Jews still regard Poland as the cradle of anti-Semitism. Perhaps the most refreshing part of the Polish-Jewish feuding about the camp is that nobody now questions its historical veracity. There are a few Holocaust deniers on the very margins of the Right in Poland but they are widely regarded as mentally unthugged.

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Tiger, tiger, are you burning out?

Asia's economies may have been overrated, says Anatole Kaletsky

Capitalism seems in good heart these days not only in America, but also in Britain and continental Europe. By contrast, the capitalists of Asia — especially those of the financial variety — are in rather poorer spirits. Could it be time to start harbouring doubts about all those predictions we used to hear about the "Asian century" and even the imminent triumph of the "tiger" economies' Confucian values over sclerotic Europe's Judeo-Christian civilisation?

Last week, the London stock market closed at its highest ever level, a record that looks fairly likely to be bettered in the days ahead. The markets in New York, Frankfurt and even in crisis-prone Paris have also recovered after July's corrections to stand at or near their historic peaks. Meanwhile, the stock markets in Tokyo, Hong Kong, Seoul and Bangkok present a very different picture. Japanese shares today are worth only half what they were in 1990. For the past three years the market in Hong Kong has struggled to regain its 1993 level, while Wall Street has forged ahead by 50 per cent. In South Korea, Taiwan and Thailand, financial confidence has fallen so steeply that governments have had to organise special financial support schemes to limit the damage from the threatened stock market collapse.

If this picture of the world economy seems to bear no relation to what you have heard about in political speeches or even read in the financial pages, do not be surprised. The politicians may warn of the challenge to Western supremacy from ultra-competitive tiger economies in Asia. The City pundits may urge you to put your savings in the "emerging markets", since these are certain to grow three times more strongly than the sclerotic over-regulated economies of Europe and America for decades ahead. But stock markets love nothing better than to frustrate both pundits and politicians.

They did this in a small way a few weeks ago, when Wall Street rebounded strongly after its summer setback, instead of falling headlong into the "bear market" which most respected investment analysts, especially in London and Edinburgh, have been predicting for the last two years.

The markets have also begun to defy the conventional wisdom which says that share prices take a right and fall in response to accelerating economic growth. Instead, while the young men in red braces propound the wisdom of the 1970s and 1980s — that falling unemployment will stir inflation, provoke high interest rates and trigger a stock market rout — the market itself is well on its way to restoring the older, more commonsense notion that used to rule in the 1950s and 1960s: that prosperity is good for profits and so for shares.

Here, then, is one message from the markets worth pondering, even for people who have absolutely no personal interest in shares: financial confidence may be at a low ebb in both America and Europe; businesses and consumers may still be shell-shocked by the recession and gloomy about the future; but to judge by the markets' behaviour, the years ahead are more likely to resemble the stable, non-inflationary and relatively prosperous 1950s and 1960s than the crisis-ridden 1970s and 1980s.

An even more intriguing idea arises from pondering the relative movements in stock market prices around the world. Why is it that share prices have done so well in

Europe and America have produced the better returns

Nowadays, a choice between the Asian and Western models of economic development is available even among the emerging markets. Eastern Europe and Latin America are generally following the Western pluralistic political model, but the backward Asian economies — Vietnam, Burma and, above all, China — appear to be increasingly confident that they can advance by repressing democracy and maintaining the traditional Asian authoritarianism.

Even among the more mature economies, of course, it would be absurd to suggest that pessimism about the relative prosperity of America and Europe can be laid to rest by a few years of superior stock market performance. But it would equally be unwise for Jeremiads to ignore the message of the markets. Investors have found that putting money into Europe and America has produced better returns than investing in the Far East.

All too often, the advantages of low costs and social cohesion in Asia have been offset by the drawbacks of corruption, arbitrary government and lack of innovation. Confucian values have proved conducive to the mass production of simpler manufactured products, but as the Asian countries have become more efficient at making these things, the value placed on them by world markets has dropped. Meanwhile, the value commanded by the more imaginative products of individualistic, disordered Western societies has risen — allowing many Western companies to stay far ahead.

The dichotomy is illustrated by an embarrassing question that many Western fund managers ought to face from their clients in the months ahead. What has been the best way to buy a stake in the growth of Asia's emerging markets? The answer: buy shares in Coca-Cola, Disney, Microsoft or Intel — all of which are quoted on the New York Stock Exchange.

Disorderly

DISGRACE swiftly followed victory for the Oxford University First Eight in the South of France this weekend. After beating Cambridge for the first time in five years at a regatta in Mandelieu, near Cannes, members of the boat went on a wrecking spree to rival the England soccer team's notorious flight

from Hong Kong earlier this summer.

Celebrations culminated after a night of heavy drinking at 3am with thecox Alex Greaney, bouncing up and down on top of a white Porsche outside a bar in the town. Police were summoned and money changed hands.

The local gendarmerie yesterday confirmed that an incident had taken place: they said that the miscreants had been drinking too much and were singing loudly on the seafront and jumping on cars.

The police were indeed called,

says Stephen Royle, director of rowing at Oxford. "It was high jinks after their victory. One of the team had an on-the-spot fine. No one was arrested, and the matter was settled there and then."

Peter Bridge, Olympic oarsman and the only French-speaking squad member, helped to negotiate the settlement and the fine of 2,500 francs — well over £300.

• Covent Garden is preparing to fete Placido Domingo, who in



Oxford on the water

Cyril Ehrlich says admission of women to the Vienna Philharmonic continues a remarkable tradition

The Vienna Philharmonic Orchestra intends to take on some women players. Its director said so last week, with the circumspection of an evasive city's most cherished institution. He avoided details and named no names, but hazarded the guess that "quite a few" ladies would join the elect within ten years. Feminists may be tempted to celebrate the fall of a last barricade, but history urges a little more caution.

Long after women gained the vote and access to every kind of job, including medicine and the law, they were still excluded from the bandroom. Before 1914, only a rare few leading orchestras engaged a lady harp, or a couple of token second violins. Not that there was any shortage of readily available talent in rapidly increasing quantity and occasionally of stunning quality. Throughout the 19th century, women were denied entry to the orchestra's rank and file, but some were allowed to achieve international success as solo instrumentalists. To name but a few, the pianists Arabella Goddard, Clara Schumann and Teresa Carreno, and the violinists Lady Hallé and Marie Hallé were equal to any man in musicianship, stamina and drawing power. Yet it was the conventional wisdom that only men, tough and resilient, should play behind them.

Part of the answer probably lies in the Thatcher-type reforms undertaken in America, Britain and parts of continental Europe to make economies more competitive and to shift the balance of power in favour of capital and investment, rather than labour and consumption. But such reforms on their own could never begin to close the cost advantage enjoyed by the Asian tigers. Nor could they transform the pampered Europeans and Americans into fanatically determined workers like the Asians. If — as some politicians and businessmen in the West had begun to fear, and many in the East had begun to hope — the key to Asia's future

dominance was going to be the discipline and respect for authority of the non-democratic, Confucian culture, then far nastier medicine than a few years of Thatcherism was going to be required.

For I want to say some hard things about the camera: things which are not often said in the media which depend upon it. Pundits say that there are only a few bad apples, and that it is vital for democracy that there should be no restriction on the capturing of images. We are told that the camera cannot lie and that only the wicked fear it.

Sometimes they joke about primitive tribes who think the camera steals souls; this is assumed to be absurd. In fiction, photographers are generally heroes: in wars, they are fired far more than the poor squaddies who provided their raw material. In law, they are safe: if a stranger walks into your garden and takes your photograph he is trespassing, but you may not confiscate his film because that is private property and your privacy is not. If he stays on the road with a telephoto lens you have no rights. Tell this to the media lobby and they roll their eyes up piously and speak in hushed tones of the public interest and the exposure of wickedness in high places; they give a general impression that if only there had been long enough lenses in Eden, the Fall would have been averted.

Hooy. The truth is that virtually half the barrel is rotten, and photography is used as often as not as an instrument of aggression, intrusion, distortion and malice. There is nothing sacred about the camera or those who use it, because for every injustice it exposes it commits 20 others. Moreover, it has created a nervous, self-conscious society obsessed with style and image at the expense of reason. Frankly, those savage tribes may have a point.

The trouble is that technology and practice have shot far ahead of civilised values. It is time we caught up and placed some restriction on non-consensual photography, just

Music, muscle-power and maidens in white

One expert said that a muscle essential for violin playing was "entirely absent from the female arm" — though that did not prevent a young lady (one of Joachim's pupils) from performing the Brahms concerto in 1893 with a prominent London orchestra, few of whose violinists would have dared tackle the piece. There were also saner warnings against exposing refined girls to the language of the bandroom, the perils of late home-going, and so forth. Above all, it was said, men had families to support.

However, the number of qualified women greatly increased, as did the range of instruments they were allowed to play. Excluded from established bands, they formed their own groups — from teashop trios to full symphony orchestras. In 1871, 125 years before the Vienna Philharmonic decided on its cautious move, a Vienna Damen-Orchester was performing waltzes in New York, "a score of

blushing maidens attired in purest white". A generation later, hundreds of female bands worked the international concert circuit. Visitors to Stockholm, for example, included the Viennese Ladies' French Horn Quartet, "national-ladies" orchestras from Sweden, Germany and Romania, and Mrs Hunt's English Ladies' Soloist Orchestra.

During London's gloriously busy 1913 season, two Queen's Hall symphony concerts in May showed what could be achieved in standard repertoire. The Wilhelm Sachse Orchestra had 120 women and a few men. Similarly large — as was then thought appropriate for any serious concert — was the Shapiro Symphony Orchestra which, with Myra Hess as concert soloist, borrowed only a few men from the London Symphony Orchestra to play wind instruments.

Inevitably, the First World War opened doors. Henry Wood, more

liberal if less comic in such matters than the utterly politically incorrect Beecham, seized a chance to import women to his Queen's Hall Orchestra. With 137 applying for jobs he appointed four violins and two violas — on equal pay and with a separate bandroom. In 1917, one of them, Dora Garland, led the Proms for a week. Such gains were reversed when men returned from the trenches, but the silent cinema provided huge alternative employment for every kind of instrumentalist, particularly among the strings, which must at all costs be retained: by self-evident means. Modern showbands, some will say, are cosmopolitan and so lack style. But isn't that more a question of teachers and schools of instrumental playing than of gender? Such issues may take another decade to resolve.

The author's books include social histories of the piano and the music profession.

standards.

So is Vienna truly the last barricade? Its need to accept women is said to be pushed by their predominance at music schools, and pulled by a threat to cut state subsidies. It will be argued that the Vienna Philharmonic is unique because of its homogeneity, particularly among the strings, which must at all costs be retained: by self-evident means. Modern showbands, some will say, are cosmopolitan and so lack style. But isn't that more a question of teachers and schools of instrumental playing than of gender? Such issues may take another decade to resolve.

Then broadcasting began and the BBC established new standards of orchestral employment, with several women in the Symphony Orchestra, including Marie Wilson, another future leader. By 1939, the process of slow assimilation seemed irreversible, particularly in provincial orchestras, and it was hastened again by war.

Ambushed by the camera

Not only does photography lie: it is also an instrument of aggression

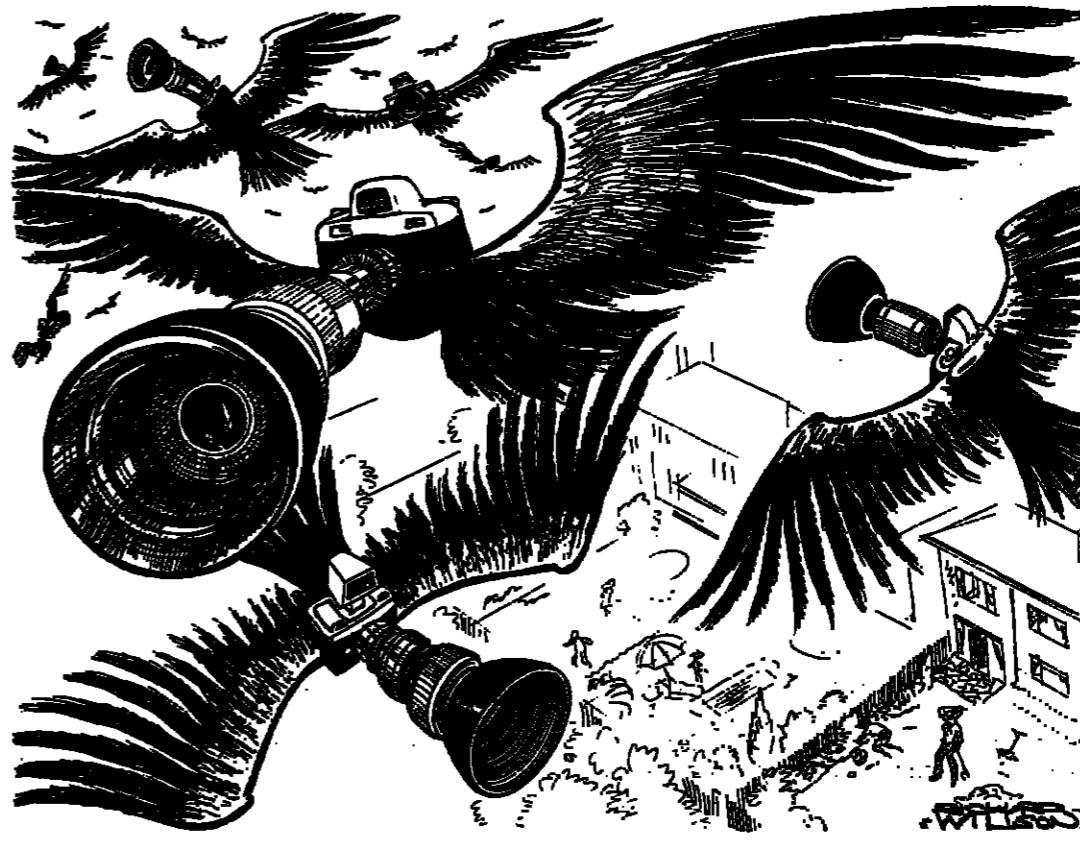
Some of my best friends are photographers. Since they might not be friends after the next few hundred words, I offer at this point an affectionate farewell. Honestly, lads, some of you are terrific enhancers of life, witty students of the human condition, expositors of injustice, nature's gentlemen. All right? Best to stop reading now. The rest will only upset you.

For I want to say some hard things about the camera: things which are not often said in the media which depend upon it. Pundits say that there are only a few bad apples, and that it is vital for democracy that there should be no restriction on the capturing of images. We are told that the camera cannot lie and that only the

wicked fear it. Even so, imagine being Diana — or Liz Hurley — and facing that on your own doorstep on a bad day. "But they love it! They live on it!" cry the paps. "They started it!" There is a grain of truth in this, but a bushel of hypocrisy: we are talking about the difference between a one-night stand and a lifetime of gang-rape. Or, to put it another way, having had a wisdom tooth extracted does not mean you invite all comers to knock out the rest of your teeth.

I also remember that flash and rattle every time I see a photograph of some poor ordinary devil in the news for some reason. Imagine you are an accused — possibly innocent — person leaving communal proceedings, staring wildly at the sudden onslaught of cameras. Only weeks ago I saw a friend, awaiting trial on unpleasant charges, photographed in just that way: in his eyes was the shock of the cameras, and the further shock of realising that anybody who saw him splashed across the local paper would say "Weirdo!" without a word of evidence. A photographic ambush makes anyone look weird. And how about mourners at funerals and jilted wives?

Yet we are told to accept it in the interests of "freedom". Now I ask you: if a movement had grown up in which gangs of young men followed people around pointing and letting off firecrackers and jeering, would not some action have been taken? But because they point lenses, it is all right.



Why did I say "jeering"? Camera-men, surely, are friendly geezers, yelling "Over here darling! Give us a smile!" Indeed; but the jeering comes later, when the pictures are used. Sometimes it is merely mischievous or affectionate: a Cabinet minister dozing on a racehorse. Sometimes it distorts the accompanying story: a husband shown grinning alongside a report of his wife's death. A mother pictured at a party, months ago, now that her child is in trouble. Often it is plain spiteful: Diana's cellulite thighs, a gay star looking worryingly thin.

Plenty of those snapped and ridiculed are not even newsworthy. A seedy convention has grown up whereby it is thought acceptable to photograph an unconscious stranger and use him to illustrate a feature on Essex man, yobish holiday Brits, bad dressers, or whatever. We meekly accept that anything the human eye (or long lens) can see is up for grabs, for someone else to profit by.

Or to drool over in private. Last week an American postman was convicted by Bournemouth magistrates of taking indecent pictures of young children. A beach inspector spotted him videoing nothing in particular, and it was discovered that his machine had a mirror and false lens to record naked children playing to one side. Child protection laws enable him to be convicted, but it reminds us that anybody

can end up as an unwitting part of someone else's profitable collection of images. Perhaps not his sexual fantasy, but his sneer at fat beach Brits, or his pretentious social commentary about card-boring city people or rave culture. Cameramen travelling to less "sophisticated" countries are often amazed to find picturesque peasants praying in church or bashing squids on quays resent their intrusion. But it is we who are too meek: the primitive instinct is the healthy one, and if Prince William is entitled to wade around in Balmoral bogs unmolested, the same goes for the squid-basher.

Even where pictures are posed, there is plenty of unavenging abuse. I cringe to relate this, but once, for the BBC, I agreed to be the subject of a profile in a particularly snide weekend supplement. The text was pretty awful but the photograph was worse: a three-hour session, with make-up and wardrobe and a famous glamour-snapper. Layers of pancake and three hats later, I emerged from the sordid attentions of his minions to leave in my travelling, computer-lugging, scruffy daily uniform of leggings and T-shirt. Whereon he said "One more small mug-shot" — and snapped. Of course it was not a mug-shot, but a full picture from knee level, skilfully angled to make me look like a Cell Block H prisoner.

I am not condemning the camera, just remarking that its users deserve no special pleading. "The public interest" does not mean anything that the public might be interested in. And it might not hurt our industry to have to defend, in courts of law, the very few of our intrusions into privacy which really are justified.



Bras on at the Edinburgh Tattoo

spotted cavorting in St James's Park in front of Buckingham Palace. Now, over their canapés, Scottish conspiracy theorists have been claiming that the Tattoo's organisers turned down requests from the dancers that they too should perform topless. They added that somebody had been dispatched to buy bras on the ladies' behalf, and returned with white ones; these had to be changed for

black because they were too conspicuous.

"It's all nonsense," says a Tattooist.

"We haven't exercised any control over their dress. The idea must stem from the day in 1994 when we did insist that some men in kilts

wore underpants for fear of offending the audience."

P.H.S.

Over the eight

THE COUNTRY'S best-known mother-to-be, Mandy Allwood, is learning about the high life. At the weekend she slipped away from



"And we propose a modest replacement for Britannia"

Zulu wear
TALK AT Edinburgh's cocktail parties concerns the Zulu ladies who provided entertainment with their tribal dances at Edinburgh Castle during the Tattoo. Why were they wearing black bras?

Recently, a topless Zulu lady was

spotted cavorting in St James's Park in front of Buckingham Palace. Now, over their canapés, Scottish conspiracy theorists have been claiming that the Tattoo's organisers turned down requests from the dancers that they too should perform topless. They added that somebody had been dispatched to buy bras on the ladies' behalf, and returned with white ones; these had to be changed for

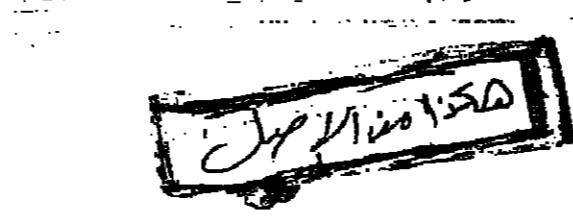
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wore underpants for fear of offending the audience."

P.H.S.





THE WAY AHEAD

Change for the Royal Family requires caution and consent

Rare is the royal house that has successfully foreseen the challenges of the future. The commoner pattern is of random events, folly at a time unplanned. The House of Windsor, from its non-German renaming to its emergence into the television lights, has proved itself more foresighted than most. Despite a welter of scandal among the younger members, the Queen has steered her family ship with quiet sagacity and skill.

Public debate about the monarchy has also been strong in the past few years. *The Times* has been prominent in those arguments, accepting that the days were over when royal dignity could endure best in darkness. If, as reported today, the Queen has overseen her own review of royal rules, titles and privileges, that is to the good. But it is all to the better that the complex issues, which go beyond the House of Windsor to the constitutional monarchy itself, should be heard in the open.

The recognisable outlines of the current arrangements were drawn during the reign of Queen Victoria. The execution of Charles I and exile of James II led to Britain becoming a parliamentary nation, but it was in Victoria's time that the nation moved from oligarchy to democracy and found a monarchy that was a truly popular focus for unity. Since then royalty has weathered upheaval and unhappiness but, in the words of Professor Vernon Bogdanor in *The Monarchy and the Constitution*, "there have been no fundamental alterations to the monarchical model as it had evolved by the end of Victoria's reign".

This in itself might imply that the time is now ripe for review. Politicians of the Left, scenting power, are keen to play their part. Government ministers are no less anxious to be seen in touch with the tide of accountability, egalitarianism and fiscal restraint. The changes considered appear to touch primarily on the succession and on royal finances.

Two reforms which appear, at first sight, attractive are changing the Act of Settlement to allow the heir to the throne to marry a Roman Catholic and altering the system of primogeniture to allow the monarch's first

child to become heir apparent, irrespective of sex. The first change would seem a belated recognition that the religious struggles of the 17th century should not intrude on the 21st. Difficult issues would need, however, to be negotiated. A future Catholic consort, and thus Catholic heirs, would end the ability of the monarch to remain Supreme Governor of the Church of England. Even the prospect of such an outcome would risk the established status of the Church.

The Prince of Wales has pondered aloud the prospect of distancing himself from the Anglican establishment in order to accommodate the needs of a multicultural nation. It is far from certain, however, whether any culture would be well served by such changes. The Chief Rabbi, Dr Jonathan Sacks, argued in the 1991 Reith Lectures that disestablishment would mean "a further dissociation between religion and public culture and would intensify the dangers of a collapse in our moral ecology".

Allowing a princess to inherit the throne ahead of younger brothers could be less fraught. Sweden made the change in 1979 and it might appear not only an equitable but a wise response to the conspicuous ability of the women in the Royal Family, from Victoria to both Queen Elizabeths and the Princess Royal. Since the succession is secure for the foreseeable future through the Prince of Wales to his sons, the change could be gracious symbolism. Financially, the Queen has already conceded to change by stripping down the Civil List and paying taxes. The current case for further reform is poor. The Royal Household, in total, probably costs the Exchequer some £50 million a year; in the last year for which figures are available the Chancellor enjoyed a surplus of £94.6 million on the Crown Estate.

More valuable, by far, however, is the security and peace which a constitutional monarchy can bring. In 1872 Benjamin Disraeli responded to the republican agitation of the time by arguing that Britain had benefited, unlike its neighbours, from having the choice of head of state fixed "without the sphere of human passions". That argument remains hardly less strong now.

DAYTON DEADLINE

Postponement of Bosnia's poll would be the greater evil

The destruction by Nato troops of an illegal Bosnian Serb ammunition dump is a demonstration that the West will not tolerate further breaches of the Dayton peace agreement. Such firmness is overdue. The Bosnian elections are less than a month away, and on present trends are heading for fiasco. Almost none of the conditions for these elections laid down at Dayton has been fulfilled: it is not clear who will be allowed to vote, where ballots will be cast or whether any open campaigning, free of intimidation, will be possible. None of the nationalist parties in Bosnia shows signs of respecting the disciplines of democracy. The military observers preparing to police the complex ballot are profoundly pessimistic.

Dayton provided no general elections at national, federal, cantonal and municipal level. The aim is to create legitimate sources of authority to implement the peace agreements, oversee reconstruction and govern the country when the Nato Peace Implementation Force withdraws. The date set, in mid-September, is the latest that is compatible with a withdrawal of American forces by December. Nothing has changed the Clinton Administration's determination to demonstrate, before the November presidential election, that this is running to schedule. But the minimum electoral conditions laid down by the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe manifestly do not exist. Indeed, Flavio Cotti, the OSCE head, has virtually washed his hands of responsibility and may hand over to Nato, thus placing the onus directly on the peace-keepers.

Can they deliver the vote? They have the

manpower to do so, but all the signs are that they are not prepared to use it. Nato has shirked an important precondition: the arrest of at least the most prominent of the political and military leaders indicted for war crimes. Nato forces could have arrested General Ratko Mladic last week; they deliberately took avoiding action. Under the Dayton rules, millions of displaced Bosnians are entitled to vote in their home villages. But Serb, Croat and even Muslim communities have refused to let refugees back, even for brief visits to their relatives' graves. So long as Nato declines to provide effective escorts, the chances of buses being allowed to cross armistice lines to reach the polling stations are virtually nil.

The International Crisis Group, which includes such figures as Senator George Mitchell, argues that a botched poll will destabilise the already fragile peace. But there is one persuasive argument for insisting that the vote goes ahead. Without a deadline, Bosnia's politicians will decide that Dayton is just a diplomatic figleaf for the West and can be safely ignored. Nato, sensibly, is making contingency plans. The Americans have hinted that they may send troops back after a token withdrawal, staged to convince US voters that Bosnia is not a quagmire. But the West's priority now is to hold to the Dayton agenda. That means not just exhortation, but the use of sufficient manpower and political pressure to convince Bosnia's leaders and ordinary Bosnians too, that the constitutional foundations of peace must and will be laid. Any yielding of ground, above all by Nato, courts their contempt.

BATTLE OF CANBERRA

Howard's Government experiences its baptism of fire

In the worst incident of its kind in Australian history, the national Parliament was stormed yesterday by a motley crowd of rioters armed with sledgehammers and battering rams. Their protest was directed against the national budget to be presented today by Peter Costello, the Treasurer. Its essence, as has been known for some time, is to eliminate the A\$8 billion budget deficit within two years — exclusively by reducing government spending. This is a bold move for John Howard, the conservative Prime Minister whose Liberal-National coalition won the general election last March.

Previously considered a grey man, Mr Howard showed how decisive he could be earlier this year when he swiftly imposed the tight gun controls in the wake of the Tasmanian massacre. The economic challenges he now takes on will test all his resilience. The decisions he must take are ones ducked by successive governments. They include a current account deficit averaging 4.5 per cent of GDP over the last decade, weak domestic savings and inflexibility in the labour market reinforced by the Australian Council of Trade Unions.

The 1996-97 austerity budget is the first stage of an ambitious house-cleaning. A specially created National Commission of Audit has come up with a set of radical recommendations. These would see the wide-

spread use of means-testing in health and welfare, the phased end of public housing, contracting out of services for Aborigines and a transfer of many administrative functions from Canberra to the states.

How much of this Mr Howard will take us is uncertain. A highly controversial plan to reduce education spending has already been announced. A major programme of privatisation will start with Telstra, the state telecommunications company. Employment in the Commonwealth Public Service will lose the protection it enjoyed under Labor. The first jolt to employees will be the introduction of performance-related pay.

The British electorate does not much care for policies driven by ideology. Mr Heseltine's sole justification for this first step is that it accords with his party's dogmatic belief that the private sector always does things better than the public.

The dogma is chipping away at more and more activities once thought to be the inalienable prerogative of the State as agent of society as a whole: prisons, government laboratories and our tax records have already fallen prey to the mad axemen and many government agencies are poised to follow suit.

The British electorate does not much care for policies driven by ideology. Mr Heseltine's party was able for years to exploit the Labour Party's dogmatic attachment to the supposed panacea of nationalisation. Now that new Labour has conspicuously shed that albatross, the Tories seem curiously eager to hang its twin round their own necks.

The case for our distinctive public-service ethos, rightly praised by Dr Joan Bridgman (letter, August 12), could all too easily go by default.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GLADSTONE,
1 Mountfort Terrace, N1.
August 16.

Flurry over flags on identity cards

From Dr Ralph J. Lamden

Sir, The argument about which emblem — royal coat-of-arms, Union Flag, EU emblem — is to appear on our new identity cards (report and leading article, August 19) seems to be a smoke-screen designed to cover up a vital point of principle.

This is that except in times of national emergency, which can be covered by the Defence of the Realm Act, there has never been a duty on British citizens to prove who they are by presentation of an identity card.

Now, although initially the card is to be "voluntary" one can easily foresee a situation where citizens stopped by the police "on suspicion" will be asked for their cards, and non-production may be grounds for detention until evidence of identity is produced. So the voluntary will become the necessary.

At one time our MPs would have revolted from party on such a principle as this. Now they can only argue about the typography of an inherently objectionable document.

Yours &c.

RALPH J. LAMDEN,
7 Weald Rise,
Ticehurst, Reading.
August 19.

From Mr J. R. Havers-Strong

Sir, I hope that it has been appreciated by those who wish to impose identity cards in time of peace on the peoples of the British Isles, that it is not only the use of the Union Flag that is a potential cause of dissension.

The royal arms as used in Scotland differ from those used in England in ways important to Scots, and any use of the latter version would be as offensive as the use of the Union Flag in Northern Ireland or Scotland.

Let us be rid of the whole thing and the Home Secretary with it.

Yours faithfully,

J. R. HAVERS-STRONG,
34 Fernside Avenue,
St Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex.
August 19.

From Mr W. S. Affleck

Sir, I see that Michael Howard's voluntary identity card "will be combined" with the new driving licence. Does this mean that the ID card will become compulsory for drivers or that the new driving licence will be voluntary. Let me guess.

And why are some people so determined to load the ID card with information and adornment? We really will gain no benefit from European or Union or other flags, from royal arms or whatever else, on a card whose sole function should be to provide clear identification of the bearer.

Yours sincerely,

W. S. AFFLECK,
Barley Hill,
Watledge, Nailsworth,
Stroud, Gloucestershire.
August 18.

From Mr J. Humphrey-Evans

Sir, The question of the Union Jack on identity cards should be resolved by giving applicants a choice of design, so that holders can identify themselves as Unionists, Scots, Welsh and/or Europeans. The chosen flags could be included in the background to the printed individual details, so that no additional space on the card be used.

After paying up to £15, the customer should at least have some say in the product.

Yours faithfully,

JAMES HUMPHREY-EVANS,
Cartref,
Dysert, Denbighshire.
August 19.

Civil Service recruiting

From Mr David Gladstone

Sir, The real significance of the Government's decision to privatise the Recruitment and Assessment Service (Lord Taylor of Gryfe's letter, August 6) is that it is only the first step along a road that leads logically to the privatisation of the whole of the Civil Service.

As Lord Taylor records, Mr Michael Heseltine's sole justification for this first step is that it accords with his party's dogmatic belief that the private sector always does things better than the public.

The dogma is chipping away at more and more activities once thought to be the inalienable prerogative of the State as agent of society as a whole: prisons, government laboratories and our tax records have already fallen prey to the mad axemen and many government agencies are poised to follow suit.

The British electorate does not much care for policies driven by ideology. Mr Heseltine's party was able for years to exploit the Labour Party's dogmatic attachment to the supposed panacea of nationalisation. Now that new Labour has conspicuously shed that albatross, the Tories seem curiously eager to hang its twin round their own necks.

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Yours faithfully,

DAVID GLADSTONE,
1 Mountfort Terrace, N1.
August 16.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Issues raised by the death of a priest

From the Reverend Christopher Fenton

Sir, There is a painful truth for the Church to learn, following the violent death of one of its heroic priests (letters, August 17). The Church needs, I suggest, not so much to take steps to ensure the physical security of its ministers, but as much to remind itself, and them, of the limits of its remit, wide as that may run.

It seems to have been one of the more admirable qualities of Christopher Gray's personality that he was simply not aware of the extent of his giddiness — would to God that there were more of his kind around. However that quality has its disadvantages and — now we know — its dangers, also. The Bishop of Liverpool was surely right when he said, trying to make sense of the tragedy: "I have no smooth answers. It feels like sheer loss and waste."

There was a phrase, however, in your obituary (August 16) that struck some chill in my heart: "... not for him the safe distance of non-directive counselling". Some of us will be wishing to God that there had been. Whatever the merits of non-directive counselling (if indeed such a thing exists), if Mr Gray had understood more clearly the nature of what it was he was being confronted with, and the limits of what he could properly offer in response — wide limits, but limits nevertheless — we might have had him with us today.

Yours truly,
CHRISTOPHER FENTON
(Priest/Director).
The Saint Anne's Practice in
Psychotherapy,
The Leys, Aston, Kingsland,
Leominster, Herefordshire.
August 17.

From Dr Bernard Ratigan

Sir, Your moving obituary of the Reverend Christopher Gray was, I fear, somewhat marred by the comment on "non-directive counselling". I do not know how any form of counselling or psychotherapy can be really "non-directive". What I do know is that in many urban areas clergy like Father Gray can be in a very vulnerable position when ministering to the casualties of our so-called system of "care in

the community". Unlike many police officers, social workers and GPs, our parish priests actually live among their people. I know that priests are not social workers but this does not preclude them having front-line training and skills in making rapid assessments and taking care of themselves. Our Lord may not have been an approved social worker but my reading of the New Testament is that he knew how to deal with the casualties of his time.

I would strongly urge those preparing and supporting clergy for those ministries at least to undertake a basic training in making assessments of a person's mental state before attempting any form of counselling. My fear is that sometimes well meaning attempts to counsel mentally disordered people can actually make situations worse.

Logically, it seems to make sense that any intervention which has the power to heal must also be able to do damage.

Yours sincerely,
BERNARD RATIGAN
(Consultant adult psychotherapist).
Nottingham Psychotherapy Unit,
St Ann's House,
114 Thorneywood Mount,
Nottingham.
August 17.

Hazards of reform to criminal law

From Sir Frederick Lawton

Sir, Drafting a criminal statute to curb the kinds of intrusive behaviour of which the Royal Family and the Princess of Wales have recently complained will be difficult (report, August 17).

A delicate balance will have to be established between individuals' rights to privacy and the right of the press to investigate and report. Further, the statute should be enforceable in magistrates' courts and be easily provable.

Drafting of legislation of this kind will be left to civil servants who will have had little, if any, experience of practice in the criminal courts. This augurs badly for the making of a workable Act. The Home Secretary should reconvene the Criminal Law Revision Committee to advise him.

This committee was set up by Mr R. A. Butler in 1959 for the purpose of advising the Home Office on changes in the criminal law which would be effective. It sat monthly from then until 1968 and dealt with many problems referred to it by Home Secretaries. It produced 18 reports, some dealing with specific topics, others with broad areas of the criminal law. Most of its specific recommendations became law. Its wider ones probably would have done too if parliamentary time for their discussion had been available.

It could act quickly, as it did with its first recommendation, dealing with indecent behaviour directed towards children, and its last, which made the prosecution of cases of fraud easier. Its usefulness and success arose from the fact that all its members, except its distinguished academic ones, had had long experience of the working of the criminal justice system.

The derided sections of the Criminal Justice Act 1991, which prevented judges from taking previous convictions into account when sentencing and obliged magistrates to fix sentences according to an arithmetical scale, would never have become law had the then Home Secretary reconvened the Criminal Law Revision Committee before presenting a Bill to Parliament.

Yours truly,
FREDERICK LAWTON
(Chairman, Criminal Law
Revision Committee, 1976-86).
1 The Village, Skelton, Yorkshire.
August 18.

Priestley's perks

From Sir Bob Scott

Sir, I am almost ashamed to admit that it has taken me five years to catch up with Stephen Daldry's celebrated National Theatre production of J. B. Priestley's *An Inspector Calls*. I did so, finally, last night. It is a tribute to the cast and the director that the production after so long a life should still seem worthy of all the praise and awards showered upon it. It was a superb evening.

At the same time, I was rather amused to discover that there was no interval, making the evening a non-stop 1½ hours.

I say amused because I had the good fortune to talk with the great JB in Manchester in 1974 when I was a very green theatre manager. I asked him that kind of rather silly question given to keen young aspirants along the lines of "what do you think was your greatest achievement in the British theatre?". Without a pause he said that he was the first and perhaps the only British playwright who had demanded from the management and got a mighty cut from the receipts of the theatre bars.

I fancy that great Yorkshireman might have insisted we had an interval, even an extended one.

Yours faithfully,
BOB SCOTT

OBITUARIES

keep
ret life
shark

Hugo Gryn, CBE, rabbi and broadcaster, died from cancer on August 18 aged 66. He was born on June 30, 1930.

A pillar of one of the BBC's most enterprising and successful radio programmes, *The Moral Maze*, the name and reputation of Hugo Gryn became known to many outside his own faith. More perhaps than anyone else, he symbolised the responsible voice of Reform Judaism in Britain.

Hugo Gabriel Gryn was born in the Czechoslovak town of Berehovo. He was named after his great-grandfather, a renowned Talmudic scholar, who had just died. In May 1944, shortly before his fourteenth birthday, he was deported to Auschwitz, together with his family, the Jews of Berehovo, and all the Jews of Carpathia.

His younger brother and his grandparents were murdered on arrival in the camp. He and his father survived for a year in a succession of slave labour camps. They also survived the notorious death marches. They were liberated together at Gusenkruchen (a sub-camp of Mauthausen) on May 5, 1945. His father died of starvation and typhoid a few days after liberation. His mother survived.

In August 1945, aged 15, Hugo Gryn was brought to Britain with several hundred other young survivors of the concentration camps. Within a year he was awarded a scholarship to study mathematics and biochemistry at King's College, Cambridge. He completed the special two-year course in the summer of 1948, and, together with his best friend, Jonathan Balter, volunteered to fight in Israel's war of independence. Balter was killed in action.

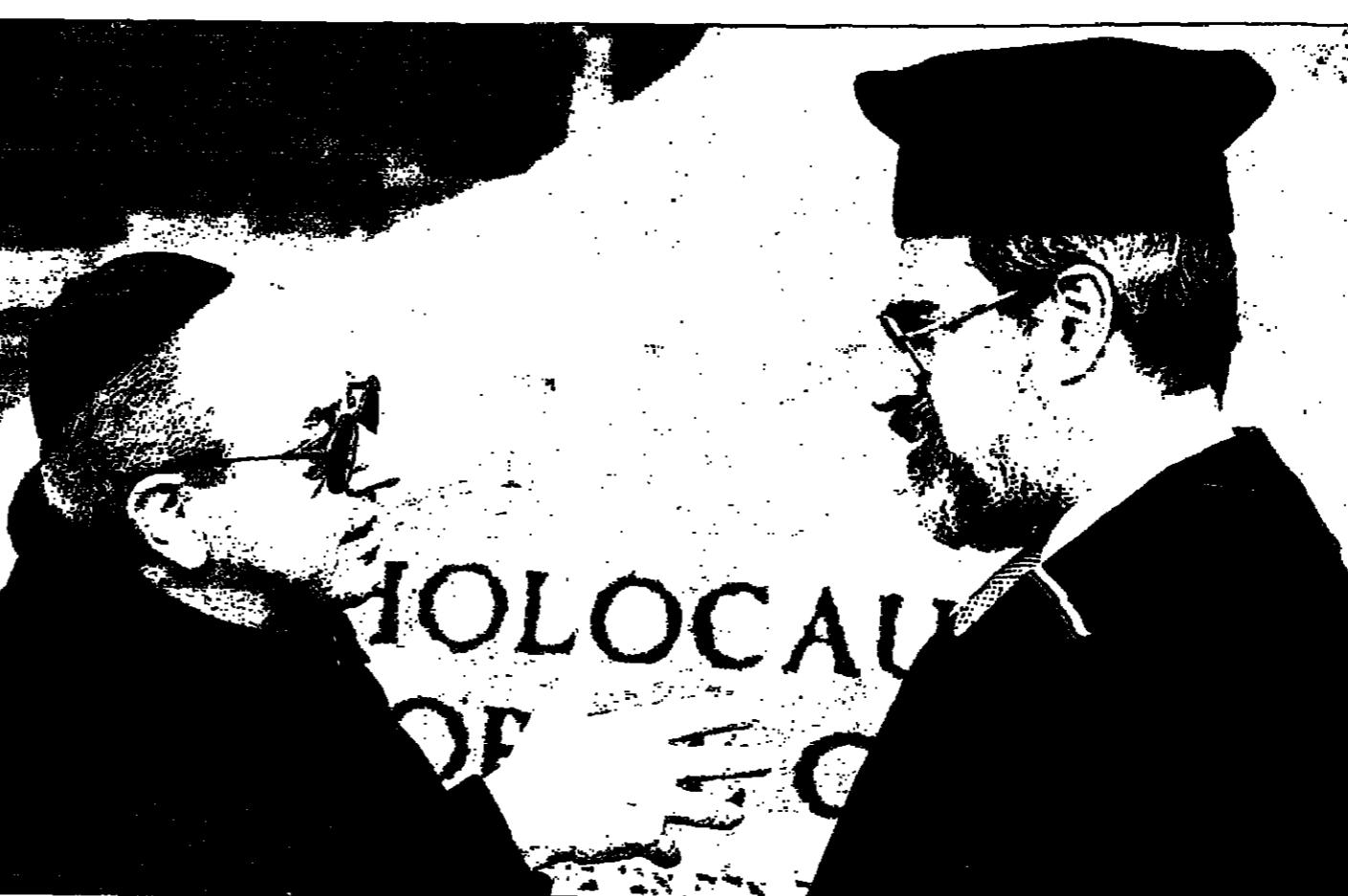
Returning to London (he had contracted jaundice while in Israel), Gryn worked briefly as a biochemist for Glaxo, and then as a teacher in a boarding school. It was at this time that he met Leo Baeck, the

distinguished Reform rabbi from Berlin who had survived long incarceration in the Theresienstadt ghetto. He studied Talmud with Baeck, and then accepted a teaching post at the Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati, the one seminary for Reform rabbis that had survived the war.

While a student rabbi at Cincinnati he officiated for several years at the Jewish High Holy Day services at Jasper, Alabama. There he befriended Martin Luther King, marched with him, and spent a night in jail with him. In 1956 he became an American citizen, and in the following year was married to Jacqueline Selby and ordained as a rabbi. His first congregation after ordination was the Jewish Religious Union in Birmingham.

While in India, Hugo Gryn befriended Jawaharlal Nehru and learned Sanskrit. After nearly three years in India he returned to the United States, where he served as executive director of the World Union of Progressive Judaism. From 1962 to 1964 he was senior executive for the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee ("the Joint") helping distressed Jewish communities all over the world. Morocco and Romania were two countries in which he was particularly active. He was instrumental in bringing many Jews from those regions to Israel.

In 1964, in search of a new pulpit, he considered becoming the rabbi of Waco, Texas, but accepted instead the position of junior rabbi at the West London Synagogue for British Jews at Marble Arch (also known as the Upper Berkeley Street Synagogue). He gave his first sermon the title, "What is sin?" Soon afterwards he was made senior rabbi. His pastoral work was of the highest quality, his sermons were profound homilies, suffused with a positive optimism and fighting spirit — which was all the more extraordinary, and all the more inspiring, given his terrible experiences during the Holocaust.



Rabbi Hugo Gryn, left, with the Chief Rabbi Dr Jonathan Sacks at the Holocaust Memorial in Hyde Park

In 1990 Gryn became president of the Reform Synagogues of Great Britain. He was also vice-president and lecturer at the Leo Baeck College, where Reform and Liberal rabbis are trained and ordained. For 11 years (1980-91) he was chairman of the European Board of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. He was indefatigable in his work on behalf of Jews who had been forbidden to leave the Soviet Union (refuseniks) and those imprisoned for teaching Hebrew. A high point of his life was when

those for whose liberation he and his wife had worked so hard, were allowed to leave the Soviet Union, and were affectionately welcomed in his synagogue hall in London.

A man of deep humanitarian conscience, keenly aware of the evils that arise from division and hatred, Gryn took a leading part in interfaith initiatives. From 1972 he was on the standing committee for Interfaith Dialogue in Education, and of the Central Religious Advisory Committee of the BBC and the IBA. He was a co-founder, with

Bishop Jim Thompson of the Interfaith Network (UK). Together with Edward Carpenter, then Dean of Westminster, he was active from 1975 in the London Rainbow Group. As a governor of Atlantic College, he organised an annual interfaith conference for students from all over the world, and was proud that from great diversity could come reconciliation and understanding.

He made particular efforts to open dialogues with Muslim religious leaders. He was a vice-

sat. He never despaired of setbacks in the work of reconciliation, and was a doughty fighter against all forms of religious, racial and social intolerance.

In 1992 Gryn was appointed CBE for his services to interfaith relations. In the following year he took out British nationality. In addition to his BA and MA at Cambridge University, he held an MA at Cincinnati, was a Doctor of Divinity at the Hebrew College, London, and was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Divinity by London University in 1995 (reputedly the first Jew to be thus honoured). At the ceremony conferring his DD, which was conducted by the Princess Royal, another of the honorees was the former President of Germany, Richard von Weizsäcker, whose earlier denunciation of German participation in the Holocaust had moved him greatly.

Having survived the Holocaust, Hugo Gryn became an important spokesman for the historical record, and for the feelings and concerns of other survivors. He was a vice-president of the 45-Aid Society, the group of survivors who had come to Britain in 1945-6, and at whose gatherings he was a focus of hope and (where needed) comfort. He recently became an adviser to the new Holocaust Museum at the Imperial War Museum.

Hugo Gryn gave of his time unsparingly. As a frequent speaker to Jewish and non-Jewish audiences throughout the country, he combined wisdom with a tremendous sense of fun. His synagogue community of 2,500 families represented only a fraction of those who turned to him for guidance. Even before *The Moral Maze*, more than two decades of radio and television work saw to it that his homes and his humour became familiar to millions.

He is survived by his wife Jackie, a son and three daughters.

Geoffrey Dearmer, First World War poet and former editor of BBC Radio's *Children's Hour*, died on August 18 aged 103. He was born on March 21, 1893.

UNTIL the publication of a fresh collection of his work, *A Pilgrim's Song*, in 1993 to celebrate his 100th birthday, the name of Geoffrey Dearmer was not, as far as the literary world knew, one to lay alongside those of Wilfred Owen, Isaac Rosenberg or Siegfried Sassoon. Yet, at the appearance of his first volume of verse in 1918, he had been hailed as "a young soldier-poet whose work has aroused the admiration of critics". His second, in 1923, attracted similar encomiums.

Thereafter he fell silent on the subject of the war, an experience which his serene figure apparently enabled him to put completely behind

him. Although his poem *The Turkish Trench Dog*, a parable about a cur which comes from enemy lines to wag a friendly tail at British soldiers, often appeared in anthologies, he never took an acknowledged place in the ranks of those who, soon after the Armistice, became known as the War Poets.

After 1918 this all changed, and it was suddenly apparent that a major poetic talent had been overlooked. His view of the war was more akin to that of Guy Chapman, whose prose work *A Passionate Prodigality* emphasised the mesmeric, almost mystical, side of the great cataclysm, than that of Sassoon, for whom outrage is the first emotion, and bitterness the legacy. The profound silences which hang over the battlefield: the strange beauty of artillery fire witnessed in the night; water lilies on a pond in a shell-shattered wood: the

immense courage and unshakable comradeship of men whose lives are lived on the brink of a horrible death — these are his subjects. Blame of those who are responsible for the catastrophe is not, in his poetry, a concern. And it is that which gives his work its enduring quality.

Geoffrey Dearmer came of strongly literary family. His father, the high churchman Percy Dearmer, Professor of Ecclesiastical Art at King's College London and a Canon of Westminster, was a copious author on theological and artistic subjects and played a leading part in the production of *The English Hymnal* and *Songs of Praise*. His mother, as Mabel Dearmer, wrote a number of novels and plays for children and played an important role in the founding of the Children's Theatre in London in 1914.

Dearmer grew up in Primrose Hill from where he made the daily journey by horse-bus to school at Westminster. His father was then vicar of St Mary's, Primrose Hill, and he grew up in an atmosphere of assurance in the Christian faith which never left him and bore much on his ability to sustain with equanimity the horrors of the world war which lay ahead. From Westminster he went, as his father had done before him, to Christ Church, Oxford. But he enjoyed himself far too much to study with any conviction, and did not take a degree.

When war broke out in August 1914 Dearmer, like many of the public school-educated men of his generation, was full of ardour to play his part. When he heard the news of the British ultimatum to Germany he rushed straight to a Hampstead drill hall to enlist. He was immediately granted a commission as a second lieutenant in the London Regiment.

In the following year he and his brother were sent to Gallipoli. In the meantime his father and mother had gone out to Serbia, where both worked for the Stobart Medical Mission. There his mother died of typhoid on July 11, 1915. Dearmer's brother, too, was to become a war victim, killed in the assault at Suvla Bay in August 1915. In later years Dearmer recalled his own experience of the Dardanelles campaign as being a placid one of tranquil nights and distant bugle calls. His poem *Sentinel* describes the evacuation from the beaches with a sensibility almost as alive to the beauties of the night as to the perils inherent in the operation. Of an exploding shell Dearmer records in verse: "Niagara seemed pelted from the stars."

After the Gallipoli expedition was abandoned, Dearmer's battalion was withdrawn to Egypt. Subsequently he served on the Western Front, an experience which later bore fruit in some of his most characteristic poems. *The Somme* and *CommeCourt*. Like Owen, he was much influenced by Keats and his poem *Keats, before Action* pays homage to this both in its title and in the borrowings from the Keatsian mode in such lines as:

A little moment more — O let me hear / The thunder rolls above, and star shells fall! Those melodies unheard re-echo clear Before the shuddering moment closes all.

But, unlike Owen's poems, those of Dearmer preserved a Christian view of the trials represented by the conflict. Hope and faith shine through the muck of mud and blood. His poem *Prayer* reflects on the death of his brother in terms which suggest an assurance that it will not have been in vain, and that grief is a shaming response.



After the appearance of his two volumes of poetry, *Poems* (1918) and *The Day's Delight* (1923), he wrote no more about the war. But he did produce a handful of comic animal poems in the postwar period, some of which appeared in newspapers and were included in the anthology of 1993.

Back in civilian life, Dearmer took a job as a reader of playscripts for the impresario Maurice Browne. He was also on the committee of the Incorporated Stage Society which at that time organised try-out matinees of new plays, very often obtaining the services of the best actors of the day for them. As such, he became the "onlie begeter" of R. C. Sheriff's drama of the First World War, *Journey's End*.

Not all its members were as impressed as he had been and when the vote on the play went 3-3 Dearmer threatened to resign if the play was not accepted. He got his way and with the young Laurence Olivier as Captain Stanhope at the Apollo Theatre in December 1928, caused such a stir that it was immediately transferred to the Savoy. Unfortunately

Olivier was already contracted to play the title role in *Beau Geste* at His Majesty's for the following year. But the play ran for two years, was translated into many languages and achieved a popularity it has never entirely lost, in spite of its dated public school ethos. In a copy he inscribed for Dearmer, Sheriff wrote: "The production of this play is due so entirely to your determination that it should be produced that your name is the only one I shall always couple with *Journey's End*."

From 1936 until 1950 Dearmer worked as a censor of plays in the Lord Chamberlain's Office which was, in those days, charged with authorising plays for the stage (a function it relinquished in 1968). From 1939 to 1959 he was an editor of the BBC radio programme *Children's Hour*, joining Uncle David and Uncle Mac as the third voice to say "goodnight" to its young listeners.

In retirement he lived in a flat in Birchington, near Margate, until the retired publisher Laurence Cottrell discovered through the BBC pensions department that he was still alive and started an appeal to pay for a new edition of his work. *A Pilgrim's Song*, which appeared in March 1993, included much of his work that had not been seen before, as well as collecting his earlier verse. It revealed a poet of unsophisticated charm. Dearmer himself, hauled out of seclusion to a birthday party to celebrate the launch of the new book at the Imperial War Museum, remained characteristically modest about his achievements: "Owen was the only real war poet, but you see minor poets are lucky. Minor novelists are totally forgotten but if you get a poem into an anthology they remember you."

His wife Margaret died in 1980, and he is survived by his daughter, the Rev Juliet Woolcombe. Olivier was already contracted to play the title role in *Beau Geste* at His Majesty's for the following year. But the play ran for two years, was translated into many languages and achieved a popularity it has never entirely lost, in spite of its dated public school ethos. In a copy he inscribed for Dearmer, Sheriff wrote: "The production of this play is due so entirely to your determination that it should be produced that your name is the only one I shall always couple with *Journey's End*."

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Night flight policy was set out fairly

Regina v Secretary of State for Transport, Ex parte Richmond upon Thames London Borough Council and Others (No 4)
Before Lord Justice Leggatt, Lord Justice Morris and Lord Justice Brooke
(Judgment July 26)

Proposals made by the Secretary of State for Transport in consultation papers in 1995 relating to restrictions on night flights at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted set out Government policy that was set out in a fair, rational and intelligible manner.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment dismissing the appeal of Richmond upon Thames, Hillingdon and Hounslow London Borough Councils, Surrey County Council, Windsor and Maidenhead Royal Borough Council and Slough Borough Council from the dismissals by Mr Justice Jowitt (The Times March 21, 1994; [1994] 1 WLR 1005) of their application for judicial review of the minister's decision announced in a press release on August 16, 1995, in respect of night flight restrictions at those airports for various periods from October 22, 1995.

Mr Charles George, QC and Miss Helen Mountfield, for the councils: Mr Ian Burnett and Mr Mark Shaw for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that in its *White Paper on Airports Policy* (Cmnd 9542) (1985) the Government said, *inter alia*, it was committed to mitigating as far as practicable the effects of aircraft noise, and its objective was to bring about progressive reductions in noise at night by allowing only movements by quiet aircraft. In order to achieve a balance between environmental and aviation interests, the basis of its decisions would be based on research into the relationship between aircraft and sleep disturbance.

Between 1988 and 1993 its policy,

set out in a consultation paper of 1987, included continuing to improve noise at night so that disturbance of sleep was reduced, allowing aircraft to continue to provide some scheduled night movements and encouraging them to continue to invest in quieter aircraft.

It rejected their request to allow flights at night without restrictions, as aircraft were then banned into three categories depending on the amount of noise they emitted, the noisiest being banned at night completely.

Pursuant to his powers under section 78(3) of the Civil Aviation Act 1982, the secretary of state limited aircraft movements, broadly, at Heathrow at night to 2,750 during the summer period (11.30pm to 6am) and 3,000 during the winter period (11.30pm to 6.30am). The actual level of movements for summer 1988 had in fact been 1,830.

In 1993, in order to set a new level for the next five years, a new consultation paper was published, and new arrangements were made to determine the number of aircraft movements by means of a weighting system which differentiated between different aircraft depending on noise emitted.

Although the proposals were set out clearly, in one particular paragraph dealing with the size of the new quota, the Government said that in keeping with the undertaking given in 1988 not to allow a wider range of noise at night, and *inter alia* to implement it, it was proposed that the quota for the next five years based on the new system would be set at a level so as to keep overall noise levels below those in 1988.

However, no mention was made of the fact that the actual number of night movements at Heathrow for summer 1988 was such that if all the new permitted movements were taken up, overall noise levels would increase significantly.

Mr Justice Laws (The Times October 12, 1993; [1994] 1 WLR 74) set aside the secretary of state's

decision, made later in 1993, because the new restrictions failed to specify the maximum number of occasions on which aircraft of the descriptions specified might be permitted to land, as required by section 78(3), but only sought to impose controls by reference to levels of exposure to noise.

Subsequent decisions by him were set aside by Mr Justice Latham (The Times December 29, 1994; [1995] Env LR 390) for failure to provide a full and fair consultation process because of the misleading paragraph in the 1993 consultation paper, and the failure to take into account the fact his decisions would permit movements at Heathrow which would produce greater noise than experienced in 1988, contrary to his expressed policy.

In further consultation papers in March and June 1995, and the decision in August 1995, the secretary of state accepted that the paragraph in the 1993 consultation paper was misleading, and set out the comparison he was using: he made clear his policies and the proposals based on them did in fact allow more noise than was experienced from actual aircraft movements for summer 1988; he acknowledged that was contrary to the policy expressed in the misleading paragraph.

He also introduced a new permitted level of "quota count points of noise" at Heathrow and other airports. For all except the quietest aircraft, the new regime removed, *inter alia*, controls that previously existed between 6am and 6.30am on winter weekdays, and had the effect that for the period 11.30pm to 6am, although the maximum number of permitted movements as compared to that allowed in 1988 was reduced, significantly more "quota count points of noise" was experienced in summer 1998 as was allowed.

The councils challenged his August 1995 decision on the basis, *inter alia*, that as it involved an increase in aircraft movements

and noise, it constituted the withdrawal of a benefit or advantage, that is, the previous policy, from the inhabitants of their areas which they could legitimately expect to be permitted to have by section 78(3), but only sought to impose controls by reference to levels of exposure to noise.

They contended that the consultation documents failed to set out rational grounds to satisfy the test established in *Civil Service Unions v Minister for the Civil Service* ([1985] AC 374, 408), where, *inter alia*, they failed to provide a fair and competitive process.

Such matters were evident to anyone reading the consultation paper, and those in 1995 cancelled out any misleading impression from the particular paragraph in that paper.

It was now clear the secretary of state intended to proceed by comparing the permitted noise climate in the basic 1988 summer night quota period with the noise climate he was willing to permit in the winter night quota period under future arrangements.

As to the question whether the secretary of state should have explained the changes to the noise climate, in his Lordship's view the evidence showed the secretary of state, as the decision-maker, took decisions covering pre-determined periods, every five years since 1988.

What was important, in the way he exercised his powers under section 78(3), was that people should understand the policy objectives he identified when he began the decision-making process, including the next pre-determined period, and informed submissions could be made by them about his exercise of power against the policy background.

In the present context, it was sufficient for him to have identified with adequate clarity those objectives. It was Parliament, not the courts, which should hold him accountable if it wished to query or challenge the policies he had chosen.

Lord Justice Jowitt agreed.

Debenture restrictions not anti-competitive

Oakdale (Richmond) Ltd v National Westminster Bank plc

Before Mr Justice Chadwick (Judgment June 28)

The restrictive terms of an all-money's debenture arrangement which provided for the lender bank to have control over the borrower company's book debts was necessary to protect the bank against the risk that its security would be dissipated by the company over borrowing and were not anti-competitive nor contrary to provisions of the EC Treaty.

The requirement that all book debts be paid into the company's account with the bank and to restrain the company, without prior written consent from the bank, from factoring, discounting or assigning its book or other debts to any other person.

The company relied on article 85 to contend that a provision which prevented it from assigning property which it had already charged to the bank as security for further lending by a third party was an anti-competitive provision.

Article 85 prohibited "agreements between undertakings, decisions by associations of undertakings and concerted practices which affect trade between member states, and which have as their object or effect the prevention, restriction or distortion of competition within the Common Market..."

His Lordship said that the test was whether the restrictions imposed in the bank's standard mortgage debenture were necessary for rendering the transaction which was to be effected by that debenture properly operable, or whether they went further than that.

The transaction to be effected by the debenture was an arrangement under which the company agreed to give security over all of its assets for the purpose of securing all-money's which the bank then or thereafter might advance to the company. That was a normal and everyday transaction in commercial life in the United Kingdom.

On April 9, 1996 the company commenced an action seeking, *inter alia*, declarations that the loan arrangements under which it was a borrower from the bank were prohibited and void under the provisions of article 85 and of the EC Treaty and that the debenture was void.

The company issued a summons seeking an injunction restraining the bank from demanding payment or exercising its rights under the debenture. The bank issued a summons seeking an order restraining the company from paying the proceeds of any book debts charged to the bank under the debenture into any account other than the company's account at the bank's Stokesley branch.

The evidence showed that the secretary of state made clear the extent to which he was consciously departing from previous policy in the 1993 paper. Thus the consultation papers set out the proposals fairly and rationally in an intelligible policy context, and his Lordship agreed with Mr Justice Jowitt in dismissing their application *on that ground*.

Lord Justice Morris and Lord Justice Brooke agreed.

Solicitors: Richard Buxton, Cambridge: Treasury Solicitor.

Cost of saving insurers' money not recoverable

Yorkshire Water Services Ltd v Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc and Others
Before Lord Justice Stuart-Smith, Lord Justice Waite and Lord Justice Otton
(Judgment July 19)

An insured under a public liability policy could not recover the cost of measures taken in order to avoid or mitigate a loss which the insurers would or might have to meet.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by the plaintiff, Yorkshire Water Services Ltd against the decision of Judge Humphrey Lloyd, QC, sitting on February 5, 1996 when he determined certain preliminary issues in favour of the defendants, Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc, Prudential Assurance Company Ltd, Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc (formerly Sun Alliance Insurance International Ltd) Christopher Mark Swinbank, Colonial Insurance Company (UK) Ltd.

damaged. Other such claims were also made or expected.

The plaintiff carried out on its own property urgent flood alleviation works costing £4,601,061 in order to avert further damage to the property of others and to prevent or reduce the possibility of similar claims.

The plaintiff claimed that it was entitled to recover under insurance policies issued by the defendants to Yorkshire Water plc the amounts for which it might be liable to ICI and others and also the cost of the remedial works.

The defendants rejected the claims on the grounds of material non-disclosure and for other reasons and because they maintained that the plaintiff's losses were irrecoverable. The plaintiff accordingly commenced the action against the defendants to establish that the defendants were liable.

A trial was ordered of preliminary issues which arose from the defences relating to the enforceability of the policies. Shortly before it was due to start, the plaintiff and ICI settled. The trial was adjourned to a date when the court could have been available to hear the case.

In his Lordship's judgment, the expenditure in question was covered by the express terms of the

amount of the settlement was such that the plaintiff's claim arising out of the ICI proceedings could effectively only be pursued against the first defendants.

However, all the defendants maintained that, even if the policies subsisted, the plaintiff could not recover its flood alleviation claim under their terms. Thus, those issues were determined first, since if the second to twelfth defendants could not be liable to the plaintiff, the first defendants would be better able to decide on whether it was worth having a lengthy trial of the original preliminary issue.

The significant matter which had to be decided was whether the plaintiff was entitled, by virtue of terms of the policy to be implied into insurance policies, to the recovery of the costs and expenses of the flood alleviation works.

Lord Justice Wainwright and Lord Justice Otton delivered a joint judgment.

Solicitors: Barlow Lyde & Gilbert: Wansbroughs Willey Hargrave, Leeds.

Scots Law Report August 20 1996 Court of Session

No objection in principle to homosexual couple adopting disabled boy

T. Petitioner
Before the Lord President (Lord Hope), Lord Wylie and Lord Weir (Judgment June 26)

There was no fundamental objection in principle to an application for the adoption of a young, disabled boy by a homosexual man who proposed to bring him up *jointly* with his male partner. Such an application fell to be determined having regard to all the circumstances of the particular case, requiring the prospective adopter as an individual rather than as a member of a class, with the same time first consideration being given to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child.

In determining such an application was within the intention of the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978, Scots law should take into account the European Convention on Human Rights (1953, Cmnd 896) as an aid to construction in the manner in which it was used by the English courts, contrary to what had been held in *Kaur v Lord Advocate* (1981 SLT 322).

The First Division of the Inner House of the Court of Session, held in a petition by A.M.T. for authority to adopt S.R., allowing a redeeming motion, recalling the interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary, Lord Gill, finding that the natural mother of S.R. was withholding her agreement unreasonably in terms of section 16(2)(b) of the Adoption (Scotland) Act 1978 and making an adoption order in favour of the petitioner.

Mr Peter Gillam for the petitioner: Mrs Janys Scott for the curatrix ad litem and the reporting officer; Mr Robert McCreadie as amicus curiae.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that the Lord Ordinary had refused the petition for two reasons. The first was that he was not persuaded that the mother was withholding her agreement unreasonably. The second was that in his view the application raised a fundamental question of principle that could not adequately be resolved on the basis of the information that had been before him.

THE LORD JUSTICE STUART-SMITH said that the plaintiff was a wholly owned subsidiary of Yorkshire Water plc and the sewerage undertaker for Yorkshire under the Water Industry Act 1991. On February 12, 1992 an embankment of the Deighton Tip failed and a vast quantity of sewage sludge was deposited in the River Colne and into the Deighton works.

According to the plaintiff's pleaded case, the nearby operations of ICI were affected. ICI started proceedings claiming that its property and business had been

treatment for their epilepsy. He had abnormal forearms, a cleft palate, an abnormal left iris, and was profoundly deaf, unable to speak and unable to walk unaided.

He had been in foster care in England until the age of four. Then, following a favourable report by a guardian ad litem, the English High Court had authorised his removal to Scotland, where he had been placed with the petitioner as his prospective adoptive parent. The petitioner had for many years worked as a nurse.

Natural mother's agreement

The Lord Ordinary had held that, since the mother had not replied to correspondence, or availed herself of the opportunity of making representations to the court, there was no satisfactory information before the court that she understood that she would be deprived permanently of her parental rights, or that she might withdraw her agreement, if she were to give it at any time that the order was made, or at that the alternative adoption had been discussed with her.

In his view all of those matters should have been explained to her, in order to provide her with the basis for an informed decision. As it had not been demonstrated that she had such an understanding, he had been unable to see how the court could hold that by her lack of cooperation she was unreasonably withholding her agreement.

In his Lordship's opinion, it was plain that the Lord Ordinary had misdirected himself on that issue.

The test was whether, objectively, no reasonable parent would withhold agreement: see *Lothian Regional Council v A* ([1992] SLT 888; D v P [1994] SCLR 417).

If the question of whether the parent had been provided with the basis for an informed decision was relevant to whether agreement was being withheld unreasonably, the court would be able to frustrate the whole process by declining to do anything to do with the point.

That in effect was what the Lord Ordinary had been permitting the natural mother to do in the present case. In his Lordship's opinion the court could treat the mother's attitude as amounting to withholding her agreement. The objective test was moreover fully satisfied.

A mother who had had no contact since birth with a child who was severely disabled as the child who was unable or unwilling to care for him herself in view of his disabilities, would not hesitate, if she was giving first consideration to the need to safeguard the welfare of the child throughout his childhood, to give her agreement to the making of an adoption order where that would lead to the child being placed in a secure home of the kind which could be provided to him by the petitioner.

A mother who had had no contact since birth with a child who was severely disabled as the child who was unable or unwilling to care for him herself in view of his disabilities, would not hesitate, if she was giving first consideration to the need to safeguard the welfare of the child throughout his childhood, to give her agreement to the making of an adoption order where that would lead to the child being placed in a secure home of the kind which could be provided to him by the petitioner.

The Lord Ordinary had held that the court could never be satisfied that the child's welfare could be safeguarded in such circumstances.

In his Lordship's opinion the short answer to the concerns which the Lord Ordinary had expressed was that the present case raised no such fundamental question of principle.

There could be no more fundamental principle in adoption than that the welfare of the child was the duty of the court to protect and promote the welfare of the child.

The Lord Ordinary's suggestion that it was his duty to examine and report upon the question whether the proposal had been made within the intention of the Act and had been made in accordance with the Convention on Human Rights, was not justified.

The suggestion that it was a fundamental objection in an adoption that the proposed adopter was living with another in a homosexual relationship found no expression in the language of the statute, and in his Lordship's

opinion, it conflicted with the rule which was set out in section 6 of the Act.

In *In re D (Adoption: Parent's consent)* ([1977] AC 602) Lord Kilbrandon had said: "It is not possible to generalise about homosexuals, or fair to treat them as other than personalities demanding the assessment appropriate to their several individualities in exactly the same way as each heterosexual member of society must be regarded as a person, not as a member of a class or herd."

Complaints that it would constitute a violation of the rights of a family, contrary to article 12, or that it would constitute discrimination on the ground of sex, contrary to article 14, would be likely to be held to be inadmissible.

Cases involving homosexual applicants

In *In re D* it had not been suggested that the homosexuality of a proposed adopter raised a fundamental objection which would prevent the making of an adoption order, whatever the circumstances.

In recent years there had been a number of cases both in Scotland and in England where an adoption order, or a freeing order, had been granted in favour of a homosexual applicant, including *Re E (Adoption: Freeing Order)* ([1993] 1 FLR 322).

Male children had been fostered with male homosexuals: see *Re W (Wardship: Publication of Information)* ([1992] 1 FLR 99).

There was no indication that the English court would see the issue of male homosexuality as raising a fundamental objection to the application.

Position of the judge

Where public policy stood on homosexuality was a matter for the court to determine from the material placed before it and then

Be quick on the ball and aim for the £50,000 goal

The Premiership is under way — and some of the world's most exciting footballers have been quick off the mark in making their presence felt and justifying those astonishing transfer fees.

But you will need to be quick if you want the added enjoyment of playing Interactive Team Football (ITF), the state-of-the-art football game, this season. The race for the first prize of £50,000 has already begun but it is not too late to catch up. Although the deadline for entries passed on Saturday, *The Times*, in association with Sky Sports Interactive, offers you another chance to join ITF and show your football knowledge by selecting a team from the best players in Britain — those in the FA Carling Premiership and the leading clubs in the Bell's Scottish League.

The sooner you enter, the sooner your team will start to score points — and become eligible for the prizes. £50,000 will go to the season's winning team selector, £1,000 to the selector of the best team of the month and £250 for the best team of the week throughout the season. But you can only start scoring once your team has been registered — so don't delay. There is a Premiership match tonight — Leeds v Sheffield Wednesday — and eight tomorrow. From today postal entries will start scoring as soon as they are received and telephone entries made by 12 noon will start scoring from matches played on that day onwards. You may enter as many teams as you like.



IN ASSOCIATION WITH
SKY SPORTS
Interactive

So what do you have to do? You have £35 million to spend on a team of 11 players and a manager. Study the lists of players in the five categories — goalkeepers, full backs, central defenders, midfield players and strikers — and the price of each. You must select a team in 4-4-2 formation, including one goalkeeper, two full backs, two central defenders, four midfield players and two strikers. You must pick a manager — who will have a price tag too.

All the players and managers have been allotted a five-digit code. Once you have selected your ITF team, you may enter it by post or telephone, using the entry form below. Then it is down to your players to score the points to take you to the top of the 'selectors' league. The points-scoring system reflects winning, losing and drawing, individual performance, consistency, goalscoring, defensive ability and fair play.

All matches from Saturday August 17 in the FA Carling Premiership and those in the FA Cup involving Premiership clubs and the Tennents Scottish Cup involving premier division clubs count for points.

But how should you choose your team? The essential rules are that you cannot have more than two individuals (two players or one player and the manager) from any one club in your team, you may not pick the same player twice and that you must not exceed your budget of £35 million. For example, if you select as your

available for transfer. Note too, that there are several additional players since ITF was launched.

Your players and manager will win and lose you points. Points are awarded depending on every goal scored and conceded with three points earned for a goalkeeper or defender (full back and central defender) scoring a goal, two points for a midfield player or striker scoring, three points for a defender keeping a clean sheet (not letting in a goal), four points for a goalkeeper maintaining a clean sheet, one point for a midfield player keeping a clean sheet and all players receive one point for appearing in a match (providing they play for 45 minutes in that game). Any player scoring a hat-trick will receive six bonus points. To secure points for a clean sheet, a player must have played for at least 75 minutes in that match.

Points will be deducted for every goal a defender concedes (one), every goal a goalkeeper concedes (two), every booking a player receives (one), every time a player is sent off (three) and a point each for a penalty conceded by a player, a penalty missed and every own goal scored by a player.

If you have selected Kevin Keegan as your manager, you will earn three points if Newcastle United win, one point if they draw and have a point docked if they lose. If Keegan was dismissed or moved to a club outside the Premiership or Scottish League premier division, that are transferred to clubs playing in the top level during the season will become

Not only will you be pitting

All ITF queries should be directed to 01582 488122.

HOW TO ENTER BY TELEPHONE

You must have a Touch-tone (DTMF) telephone (most push-button telephones with a '1' and a hash key are Touch-tone) to enter. You cannot enter using a rotary dial or 'pulse' telephone. You can enter your team by dialling 0891 405 011 (from the Republic of Ireland you must dial 004 4990 100 029).

Then follow the simple step-by-step instructions. Listen carefully and take your time. The recorded message will ask you to tap in (not speak) the full set of selections (using the five-digit player codes) for each of your chosen players and your manager in the following order: the goalkeeper, the two full backs, the two central defenders, the four midfield players, the two strikers and the manager. You will then be asked to give the name of your team (no more than 16 characters) and to record your name, address (with postcode) and daytime telephone number. Finally, you will be given a ten-digit Personal Identification Number (PIN). Please be patient. You have plenty of time to make your entry. Use The Times Interactive Team Football form, right, to record your selections and your PIN. Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times. Each call will last about eight minutes.

Each player you enter will be confirmed on the telephone after you have completed each selection. You will be notified of your PIN at the end of the call. No postal notification will be sent.

HOW TO ENTER BY POST

Fill in the entry form on the ball, right (photocopies are not acceptable) and send it with a cheque or postal order for £2 payable to The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ. The entry fee for registrations outside the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland is £5, which may only be made by post. Once your postal entry has been received you will receive a letter of confirmation and notification of your Personal Identification Number (PIN) and team. Your team will only start scoring points once it has been registered. Points scored by players before your registration is complete do not count. The sooner you enter the sooner your team starts scoring.

HOW THE SCORING SYSTEM WORKS

All 1996-97 matches in the FA Carling Premiership, FA Cup, Bell's Scottish League premier division and Tennents Scottish Cup count for points. Penalty shootouts do not count but results decided in this way will count for managers.

POINTS SCORED

Goalkeeper	4pts	Striker	3pts
Keeps clean sheet	4pts	Scores goal	2pts
Scores goal	2pts		
Saves penalty	1pt		
Full backs Central defender	3pts		
Keeps clean sheet	3pts		
Scores goal	3pts		
Middle player	2pts		
Keeps clean sheet	2pts		
Scores goal	2pts		

POINTS DEDUCTED

Goalkeeper	2pts	All players	1pts
Keeps clean sheet	2pts	Sent off	1pt
Scores goal	2pts	Booked	1pt
Saves penalty	1pt	Concedes goal	1pt
Full backs Central defender	3pts	125	1pt
Keeps clean sheet	3pts	125	1pt
Scores goal	3pts	125	1pt
Middle player	2pts	125	1pt
Keeps clean sheet	2pts	125	1pt
Scores goal	2pts	125	1pt

EXAMPLE

Your midfield players scores three goals (3x3pts plus 3pt bonus = 12pts), is booked (1pt), misses a penalty (minus 1pt) and plays throughout (not in a 4-0 with clean sheet = 1pt). He has scored 10 points in that match.

EXCLUSIVE TO ITF ENTRANTS

FORM YOUR OWN ITF MINI LEAGUE AND GET PERSONALISED UPDATES

This season you and your friends can compete directly against each other in your own ITF Mini-League all you need are four or more people (up to a maximum of 100) and a nominated chairperson.

A Mini-League is simple to set up and costs only £2.50 extra. A Mini-League may only be entered by post. Each player must enclose his or her ITF application form in the normal way (see entry instructions on these pages).

All payments and entry forms must be in the same envelope along with the attached

form and your additional £2.50, payable to *The Times* Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire, LU1 1ZZ. You cannot add members to your Mini-League after your initial entry.

The fee is £5 sterling for a Mini-League and for entrants outside the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland. Further details are available from 01582 488122.

Each month, a letter will be sent to the chairperson showing the position of all entrants in their Mini-League.

MINI LEAGUE ENTRY FORM

I enclose all team entries in the same envelope along with an additional cheque/postal order for £2.50. Please set up my Mini-League.

Chairperson's name

Mini-League name

I enclose entry forms with £2 entry fee each, plus an extra £2.50 to set up my mini league.

Total payment £



See Sky Text, page 118

20 SIGNED COPIES OF THE PFA FOOTBALLERS FACTFILE TO BE WON

We have 20 copies of the PFA Footballers Factfile to be won by players who enter *The Times* ITF between today and Friday August 30. The winners will be selected at random and notified by September 20. The PFA Footballers Factfile is the perfect companion for any ITF manager, with profiles on over 2,000 professional players.

Each copy will be signed by Gary and Philip Neville.

PLAY ITF ON-LINE

Play on-line to win all the great ITF prizes, including the £50,000 first prize. Plus play for special Internet prizes, such as the £1,000 top prize and the £250 monthly prize. You can also check your position in the internet league instantly, on-line.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Enter *The Times* Internet Edition at <http://www.the-times.co.uk>
2. Look for the special ITF button.
3. Entry on-line costs £1.50, payable only by credit card. This allows you to make transfers for the entire season.

HOW TO MAKE A TRANSFER

Interactive Team Football has an active transfer system to allow you to respond to changes in form and fitness and to players moving in and out of the Premiership and Second League premier division. You may transfer up to two individuals (player or manager) during a transfer period but you must keep to the team format (a full back must be replaced by a full back and no more than two individuals from the same club) and you must keep within the £35 million budget. If a player moves team during the season and it affects the composition of your team, you must act. If you have two Arsenal players and one of your other players moves to Arsenal, you will have three players from the same club and will need to adjust. If you should use the transfer line to correct the situation to avoid missing out on points, incorrect transfers will be reflected and your team will remain in its previous form. The transfer line number is 0891 405 011, from the Republic of Ireland and outside the United Kingdom, it is 44 990 200 668. The transfer week runs from 9.01 on Tuesday to midnight the following Monday. Transfers made before 12 noon on any day will become effective immediately. Transfers made after 12 noon will become effective for matches played after 12 noon the following day. You may only make a transfer by telephone. Do not use your PIN. New players score points when their transfer is registered.

PRIZES

First prize: £50,000. Second prize: £10,000. Third prize: £2,500. Weekly prize: £250. The weekly winner can also nominate a £1,000 weekly prize.

ALL QUERIES TO

01582 488122

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



See Sky Text, page 118

ENTER ON SKY TV. PRESS SKY SPORTS TEXT, PAGE 505

To enter by phone call 01581 405 011

Calls cost 39p per min cheap rate, 49p per min at other times. Calls should last approximately 8 mins

Entrants from Rep of Ireland only call 004 4990 100 320

TEAM NAME _____

Goalkeeper _____ (up to 16 characters)

Full back _____

Central defender _____

Middle player _____

Striker _____

Manager _____

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Daytime telephone no _____

Send your entries with £2 (or £1 for entrants outside the UK or Rep of Ireland (£5 sterling) to: The Times Interactive Team Football, Abacus House, Dudley Street, Luton, Bedfordshire LU1 1ZZ.

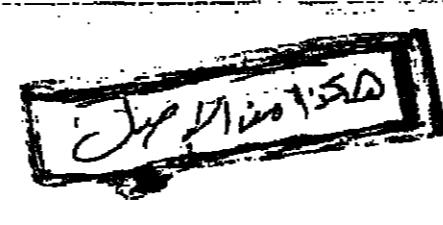
Which age group are you? (TICK BOX)

(1) 15-24 (2) 25-34 (3) regularly

(4) 35-44 (5) 45-54 (6) occasionally

(7) 55-64 (8) 65+

If you do not wish to receive other offers from *The Times* check this box _____



Study the list of players and managers, assess their ITF values and pick a team to beat the best

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
10101	Michael Watt	Aberdeen	1.50
10201	David Seaman	Arsenal	5.00
10202	Vince Bartram	Arsenal	0.75
10203	John Lukic	Arsenal	0.75
10301	Mark Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50
10302	Michael Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00
10401	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
10402	Shay Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
10501	Gordon Marshall	Celtic	3.50
10501	Dmitri Kharine	Chelsea	2.50
10602	Kevin Hitchcock	Chelsea	2.00
10701	Steve Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50
10702	John Flan	Coventry City	0.50
10801	Martin Taylor	Derby County	1.00
10802	Russell Hout	Derby County	1.00
10901	Ally Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50
11001	Ian Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50
11101	Neville Southall	Everton	2.50
11102	Jason Kearton	Everton	0.50
11103	Paul Gerrard	Everton	2.50
11201	Gilles Rousset	Hearts	2.00
11301	Jim Leighton	Hibernian	1.50
11401	Dragoje Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00
11501	Mark Beehney	Leeds United	1.50
11502	Paul Evans	Leeds United	0.25
11503	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	2.50
11601	Kevin Poole	Leicester City	1.00
11602	Zeljko Kalac	Leicester City	0.50
11603	Kasey Keller	Leicester City	1.00
11701	David James	Liverpool	5.00
11702	Tony Warner	Liverpool	0.50
11801	Peter Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00
11802	Raimond van der Gouw	Manchester United	1.00
11901	Gary Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50
11902	Alan Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50
12001	Scott Howie	Motherwell	1.50
12101	Shaka Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00
12102	Pavel Smicek	Newcastle United	3.00
12201	Mark Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50
12202	Alan Fettis	Nottingham Forest	0.75
12203	Tommy Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75
12301	Scott Y Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50
12401	Andy Goram	Rangers	5.00
12501	Kevin Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00
12601	Dave Beasant	Southampton	1.00
12602	Neil Moss	Southampton	0.25
12701	Tony Cotter	Sunderland	1.00
12801	Ian Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
12901	Ludek Miklosko	West Ham United	2.00
12902	Steve Mautone	West Ham United	0.50
13001	Neil Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00
13002	Paul Heald	Wimbledon	1.00



Fabrizio Ravanelli's hat-trick against Liverpool has earned Middlesbrough's new striker a six-point bonus in ITF

DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
20101	Stewart McKinnie	Aberdeen	2.00
20201	Lee Dixon	Arsenal	3.00
20202	Nigel Winterburn	Arsenal	3.00
20203	Steve Morow	Arsenal	1.00
20301	Steve Staunton	Aston Villa	3.00
20302	Alan Wright	Aston Villa	3.00
20303	Gary Charles	Aston Villa	2.50
20304	Phil King	Aston Villa	0.25
20305	Fernando Nelson	Aston Villa	3.00
20401	Henning Berg	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20402	Graeme Le Saux	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20403	Jeff Kenna	Blackburn Rovers	1.50
20404	Gary Crot	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
20501	Jackie McNamara	Celtic	3.00
20502	Tosh McNally	Celtic	3.00
20601	Dan Petrescu	Chelsea	3.00
20602	Steve Clarke	Chelsea	2.00
20603	Terry Phelan	Chelsea	1.00
20604	Scott Minto	Chelsea	1.00
20701	David Burrows	Coventry City	1.00
20702	Brian Bowens	Coventry City	1.00
20703	Marc Hall	Coventry City	1.50
20704	Regis Genuaux	Coventry City	1.50
20801	Chris Powell	Derby County	1.00
20802	Dean Yates	Derby County	0.25
20803	Jason Kavanagh	Derby County	1.00
20901	Maurice Malpas	Dundee United	0.50
20902	Mark Perry	Dundee United	0.50
20903	Neil Duffy	Dundee United	0.25
20904	Colin Miller	Dunfermline	0.25
21002	Andy Tod	Dunfermline	0.25
21101	Marc Hotiger	Everton	2.50
21102	Andy Hinchliffe	Everton	2.00
21103	Earl Barnett	Everton	1.50
21104	Matt Jackson	Everton	1.00
21201	Gary Locke	Hearts	2.00
21202	Neil Pointon	Hearts	1.00
21301	Willie Miller	Hibernian	1.00
21302	Andy Dow	Hibernian	1.00
21401	Tom Black	Kilmarnock	0.75
21402	Gus MacPherson	Kilmarnock	0.50
21501	Gary Kelly	Leeds United	3.00
21502	Tony Dorlig	Leeds United	2.50
21503	Paul Breesley	Leeds United	0.50
21601	Mike Whittow	Leicester City	0.50
21602	Simon Grayson	Leicester City	0.50
21603	Neil Lewis	Leicester City	0.25
21604	Frank Rolling	Liverpool	3.00
21701	Rob Jones	Liverpool	1.50
21702	Steve Harkness	Liverpool	0.75
21703	Stig Inge Bjørnebye	Liverpool	0.25
21704	Phil Charock	Liverpool	0.25
21801	Denis Irwin	Manchester United	4.00
21802	Gary Neville	Manchester United	3.00
21803	Phil Neville	Manchester United	3.00
21901	Neil Cox	Middlesbrough	1.50
21902	Branco	Middlesbrough	0.75
21903	Chris Morris	Middlesbrough	0.75
21904	Curtis Fleming	Middlesbrough	0.25
21905	Stephen McMillan	Middlesbrough	0.50
22001	Warren Barton	Newcastle United	3.00
22022	Steve Watson	Newcastle United	2.50
22033	Robbie Elliott	Newcastle United	2.50
22044	John Beresford	Newcastle United	4.00
22055	Stuart Kerrigan	Newcastle United	2.00
22066	Des Lytle	Newcastle United	1.00
22077	Ale Inge Haaland	Newcastle United	0.75
22088	Nikola Jerkan	Newcastle United	0.50
22099	Paul Bonar	Rangers	2.50
22100	David Kirkwood	Rangers	2.00
22101	David Robertson	Rangers	2.00
22202	John Brown	Rangers	1.50
22303	Ian Nolan	Rangers	1.50
22402	Peter Atherton	Rangers	1.00
22503	Steve Nicol	Rangers	1.00
22604	Dejan Stafanovic	Rangers	0.50
22605	Lees Briscoe	Rangers	1.50
22606	Jason Dodd	Rangers	0.75
22607	Francis Benali	Rangers	0.25
22608	Simon Charlton	Rangers	0.50
22609	Dariusz Kubicki	Rangers	0.50
22702	Martin Scott	Rangers	0.25
22703	Gareth Hall	Tottenham Hotspur	2.00
22801	Dean Austin	Tottenham Hotspur	1.00
22802	Clive Wilson	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
22803	Justin Edinburgh	Tottenham Hotspur	0.50
22804	David Kerslake	Tottenham Hotspur	4.00
22901	Julian Dicks	West Ham United	1.00
22902	Tim Bremner	West Ham United	1.00
22903	Keith Rowland	West Ham United	1.00
22904	Mark Bowen	West Ham United	0.50
22905	Kenny Brown	Wimbledon	1.50
23001	Ben Thatcher	Wimbledon	0.75
23002	Alan Kimble	Wimbledon	0.75
23003	Karen Cunningham	Wimbledon	0.75
23004	Duncan Jupp	Wimbledon	0.25

MIDFIELDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
40101	Dean Windass	Aberdeen	3.00
40102	Stephen Glass	Aberdeen	3.00
40103	Paul Bernard	Aberdeen	2.50
40104	Ivan Kirikov	Aberdeen	0.50
40105	Tzanko Tzvetanov	Arsenal	4.50
40201	David Platt	Arsenal	4.00
40202	Paul Merson	Arsenal	2.00
40203	Ray Parlour	Arsenal	1.50
40204	Glenn Hoddle	Arsenal	0.50
40205	Ian Selley	Arsenal	0.50
40206	David Hillier	Arsenal	0.50
40207	Eddie McGoldrick	Arsenal	0.25
40208	Patrick Viera	Arsenal	2.00
40209	Remi Garde	Arsenal	1.00
40210	John Barnes	Arsenal	2.00
40211	Andy Johnson	Arsenal	0.50
40212	Andy Townsend	Aston Villa	2.50
40213	Andy Taylor	Aston Villa	2.50
40214	Graeme Le Saux	Aston Villa	1.00
40215	John Barnes	Aston Villa	1.00
40216	John Barnes	Aston Villa	1.00
40217			

NEWS

Monarchy scrutinises its future

John Major and Tony Blair have been involved in detailed private talks with the Queen and the Prince of Wales over radical proposals to reform the monarchy.

The leaked proposals include financing the monarchy entirely from private estate revenues, disestablishing the Church of England, repealing the 295-year old ban against heirs to the throne marrying Roman Catholics, and allowing the first-born child of a monarch to succeed to the throne irrespective of sex.

Pages 1, 2, 15

Holiday children feared drowned

Minutes after arriving on a Norfolk beach, two excited children, Jodi Loughlin, 6, and her brother Tom, 4, from south London, undressed quicker than their parents and ran towards the water. Neither could swim.

Page 1

Belgians seek help

Belgian police hunting for more possible victims of a paedophile ring spoke to officers in Gloucestershire who carried out the body search at the home of Fred and Rosemary West.

Pages 1, 3

Cooler weather

The heatwave is coming to an end. Yesterday the hottest place was Nottingham at 89.2F (31.8C). Weathermen had predicted that the 1996 record of 33C in Jersey would be beaten.

Page 1

Pregnant Koo

Koo Stark, the Duke of York's former girlfriend, is expecting her first child at 40 but said that she may never reveal the identity of the father.

Page 3

Blair warned

Tony Blair was given a warning that he could face a backbench revolt if a Labour government endorsed moves to end the Civil List.

Page 2

DNA tests on boys

French detectives took samples for DNA tests from five teenage boys on the first day of their inquiry in Cornwall into the rape and murder of the schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson.

Page 3

Burger victim

A coroner ruled that student Peter Hall, who died from the brain disease CJD, was probably killed by eating beefburgers contaminated with BSE.

Page 5

Actor 'sees red' over that poster

Scott Woods, 42, a Labour voter and actor who plays a serial killer, knew he was being photographed for a 'Tory' poster, but said he was never told his striking eyes would be superimposed on the Labour leader's face. "I knew my eyes were going to be turned red, but they never mentioned Tony Blair. If I had known, I probably wouldn't have done it."

Page 7

War poet dies

Geoffrey Dearmer, the last surviving poet of the First World War, has died at the age of 103. The soldier-poet, whose verse was inspired by the horrors of war, died in a sheltered accommodation.

Page 6

First among equals

A poll of 105 companies showed that almost half preferred hiring graduates from Oxford and Cambridge Universities. Manchester, Nottingham and Leeds were the next most popular.

Page 7

Shark study

Eight scientists are hoping to discover whether the basking shark, the second-largest fish, goes to sleep on the ocean floor over winter. The £20,000 study is the first of its kind.

Page 8

Australian wrath

Australia's Parliament was littered with debris and splattered with blood after a rally to protest at John Howard's first Budget erupted in violence.

Page 9

Human shield

Human rights supporters cast a human shield around a church in which ten Africans are sheltering in to prevent their forced expulsion from France.

Page 9

The 'last' geisha

Tsukiyokomatsu Asaji, Japan's oldest authentic geisha, has died at 102, after more than 80 years entertaining the elite.

Page 11



Bryan Gibson, retired locomotive fireman, examines some of the 237 Crewe-built steam-engine nameplates assembled for the first time from private collections for the 150th anniversary of the London, North Western Railway at Crewe Locomotive Works, Cheshire

BUSINESS

Jobs threat: Receivers were appointed at Chamberlain Phipps, the shoemaking materials company that employs 2,600 around the world.

SPORT

Football: Ian Rush, has been omitted from the Wales team to play San Marino in a World Cup qualifying match. There is speculation that his international career could be over.

ARTS

Demolition man: As the Serpentine Gallery plans an ambitious renovation, Richard Wilson sows the seeds of destruction with an exhibition that literally deconstructs the building.

FEATURES

Hidden history: The final day of the extraordinary life of Lady Jane Eltenborough, in which at the age of 50 she falls in love with a Bedouin sheikh.

REVIEWS

Preview: Meet the Girl Guides, the biggest female club in the world. **Picture This** (BBC2, 8pm) Review: Lynne Truss writes on the moody brilliance of *Out of the Blue*.

Page 43

OPINION

The way ahead

Complex constitutional issues, which go beyond the House of Windsor to the constitutional monarchy itself, should be heard in the open.

Page 15

Denton deadline

The destruction by Nato troops of an illegal Bosnian Serb ammunition dump is a demonstration that the West will not tolerate further breaches of the Dayton peace agreement. Such firmness is overdue.

Page 15

Battle of Canberra

Paul Keating, the Australian Labor leader, was admired by Tony Blair and was to some degree a model for New Labour. For true radicalism Australia has had to wait for the return to power of the Right.

Page 25

COLUMNS

LIBBY PURVES

Photography is used as often as not as an instrument of aggression, intrusion, distortion and malice. There is nothing sacred about the camera or those who use it, because for every injustice it exposes, it commits 20 others. Moreover, it has created a nervous, self-conscious society obsessed with style and image at the expense of reason.

Page 14

CYRIL EHRLICH

One expert said that a muscle essential for violin playing was "entirely absent from the female arm" - though that did not prevent a young lady (one of Joachim's pupils) from performing the Brahms concerto in 1893 with a prominent London orchestra, few of whose violinists would have dared tackle the piece.

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OBITUARIES

Hugo Grym, rabbi and broadcaster Geoffrey Dearmer, First World War poet.

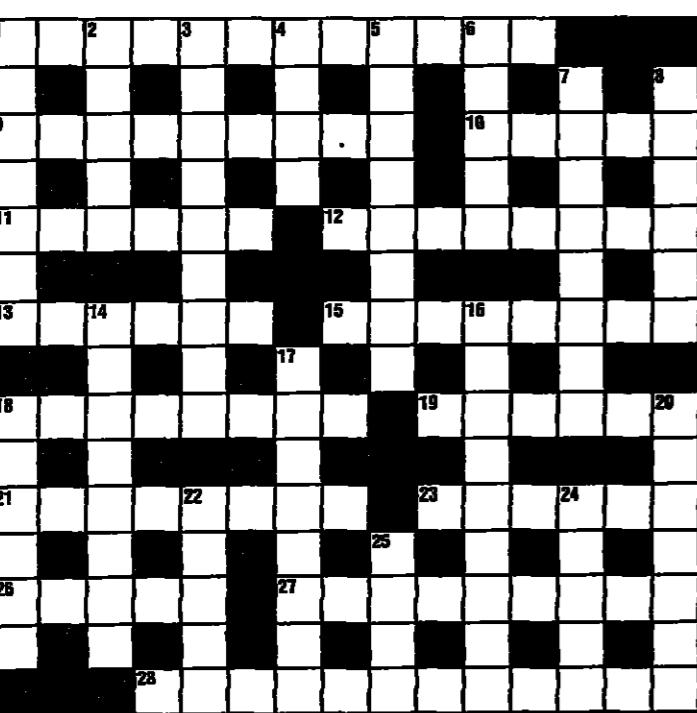
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LETTERS

ID cards; death of a priest; criminal law reform; "feathered enemies"; animal protection; Civil Service; Times crossword.

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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,251



THE TIMES WEATHER FORECAST

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TODAY



ARTS

Mark Morris,
master of dance,
dons his opera hat
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LAW

One woman's long
and costly
fight for justice
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SPORT

Pessoa defies
years in
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

TUESDAY AUGUST 20 1996

5

Costain rule breach a threat to Exchange quotation



BY JASON NISSE

COSTAIN GROUP, the troubled construction company, is in talks with the Stock Exchange after finding it is in breach of official listing requirements because three of its shareholders hold more than 75 per cent of its equity capital.

If the issue cannot be resolved the Exchange could force the cancellation of Costain's quotation, leaving 15,000 shareholders without an open market for their shares.

The group, which lost £131 million last year, has also become a Close Company, as defined by the Income and Corporation Taxes Act 1988.

because it is controlled by fewer than five shareholders. This definition could have serious tax implications once Costain returns to profit.

The Exchange's "Yellow Book", which covers listings on the full market, specifies that there must be a free float of a minimum of 25 per cent of a company's shares in the hands of private investors. Costain has informed the Exchange of the rule breach and the two sides are discussing how it can be resolved.

The problem has come about as a result of Costain's £74 million rescue rights issue, which went through at the end of last month. This left Intria Berhad, a Malaysian group which

agreed to bail out Costain, with 40 per cent of Costain's shares as a result of underwriting the three-for-one issue. However, Mohamed Abdulmohsin Kharafi & Sons, the Kuwaiti builders, objected to the issue and has been increasing its holding in Costain to curb Intria's influence. It now holds 25.2 per cent of the shares.

A third group, Raymond International of Saudi Arabia, partially supported the restructuring, allowing its shareholding to be cut from 19 per cent to 12.1 per cent.

Taken together the three shareholders now have 77.3 per cent of the shares and another 2.3 per cent is

held by the bankers to Costain. The family's last representative, Peter Costain, former chief executive, is still deputy chairman in spite of the family's minuscule shareholding.

The Exchange has told Costain that it expects the group to sort out its listing problems, either by forcing one or all of its large shareholders to cut their stakes or by issuing further shares. The first option is considered tricky because of the stand-off between Intria and Kharafi, and the second is felt by Costain's advisers to be unfeasible so soon after the recent rights issue.

No deadline has been set by the Exchange, but it would give Costain

at least two months to sort out the problem before taking any action. In the past the Exchange has removed the quotation for companies breaching the 75 per cent rule, but this is an extreme move and would only take place if the Exchange was convinced there could not be an active market in the shares. A spokesman said that it would take account of the interests of the 15,000 small shareholders in Costain before taking any preventive action.

Costain is still looking for a buyer for its US coal business after a deal with Lonrho fell through.

Pennington, page 25

Housing recovery spreads to all regions

BY ROBERT MILLER

THE housing market receives a further boost today with a survey that shows house prices in all regions of England and Wales have either held steady or risen during the last quarter. It is the first time this decade that all regions have been buoyant.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (Rics) also forecasts that the number of households caught in the negative equity trap will fall to about 100,000 within the next 12 months. This compares with estimates earlier this year that around 1.7 million households were still in negative equity.

The Rics says it was particularly cheered by July being another strong month for the housing market in spite of the traditional summer holiday lull. More recent anecdotal evidence for August suggests this trend is continuing.

For the first time this decade prices in all regions in the three months to July 31 were

reported to be stable or rising, with a national average net balance of 32 per cent of chartered surveyor estate agents indicating increases. At the same time last year, says the Rics, there was a negative balance of 28 per cent.

In a regional breakdown of the latest figures, the Rics says that the market recovery, recently dominated by London and the South East, is now mirrored in other areas. London still leads the way with a net balance of the participating estate agents seeing an increase in prices, closely followed by the South East on 60 per cent and the South West on 56 per cent. In Wales, the North and the North West, however, prices are said to be "virtually static".

Ian Perry, housing spokesman for the Rics, says: "It is a measure of the market's vigour that at this traditionally quiet period many agents reported that there were still not enough instructions to meet demand. All the economic conditions are in place for prices to continue rising, helping those in negative equity."

He continues: "For too long this burden has prevented people from relocating for a new job or to more suitable accommodation."

Most housing market analysts believe that the biggest test of the market's latest recovery will come in the autumn. Fears that interest rates, now at their lowest level for more than 30 years, will begin to rise again, coupled with political uncertainty as the general election moves closer, could again delay people moving house or deter first-time buyers from stepping onto the housing ladder.

The collapse comes just two years after Chamberlain was floated on the stock market, valued at £75 million, and less



Dan Sullivan was accused of failing to keep the board fully informed of the true financial state of the group prior to the chief executive's appointment

Chamberlain Phipps in receivership

BY JASON NISSE

CHAMBERLAIN PHIPPS, the shoemakers, went into receivership yesterday after its main lender, Bank of Scotland, refused to back a rescue package which would have involved the bank putting an extra £5 million into the company.

The collapse comes just two years after Chamberlain was floated on the stock market, valued at £75 million, and less

than six weeks since Archie Coulson, the company doctor, was made chief executive in a last-ditch rescue attempt.

It is the fourth failure associated with Dan Sullivan, the US investor who chairs Chamberlain. He was accused yesterday of failing to keep the board fully informed of the true financial state of the group prior to the appointment of Mr Coulson.

Most housing market analysts believe that the biggest test of the market's latest recovery will come in the autumn. Fears that interest rates, now at their lowest level for more than 30 years, will begin to rise again, coupled with political uncertainty as the general election moves closer, could again delay people moving house or deter first-time buyers from stepping onto the housing ladder.

The Halifax Building Society acknowledged the concerns of first-time buyers when it announced last week that it would launch a new initiative to guarantee that such buyers, who move between five and ten years after they have bought their homes and who are in negative equity, will not have to foot the bill.

MARKS & SPENCER, a name normally synonymous with the highest degree of efficiency, has confessed to making around 41,000 of its charge card and personal loan customers pay twice.

The errors, resulting from a computer glitch, arose between August 10 and August 12. M&S collected two lots of monthly direct debit payments from its customers' bank accounts. The store will

not reveal how much money it received, but based on average figures for store card balances and typical borrowing repayment patterns, the amount could have been as much as £5 million.

As soon as M&S uncovered its mistake, it reimbursed the accounts and sent letters of apology. Most customers had been unaware that they had temporarily enriched the high street chain. Marks's bur-

"You have to take a look at a situation where the profits were getting better and better while the bank account was going south," said Mr Coulson. "The non-executive directors pushed and pushed but did not get the information they needed until too late."

Yesterday Mr Sullivan was "in meetings" when *The Times* attempted to contact him.

Mr Sullivan invested £3

million in a buyout of Chamberlain five years ago. The second set of accounts have not yet been produced.

In May the company admitted it had debts totalling £47.5 million but it is understood that this had been reduced to £34 million by the time of the collapse.

Mr Coulson presented a rescue package to Bank of Scotland last week, but it was couched with a great deal of uncertainty about the UK shoe business, which has been hit by the collapse of the Facia group.

"They would have had to put a substantial amount of money in and I am not surprised they decided this was not a sensible commercial decision," said Mr Coulson. The amount is understood to be £5 million.

Murdoch McMillan and Simon Allport, at Arthur Andersen, the accountants, were made receivers yesterday luncheon. They said they were confident they could sell the constituent parts as going concerns, so saving 130 jobs in the UK and over 2,000 in France, the US and Canada.

Pennington, page 25

St Michael's double confession

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

MARKS & SPENCER, a name normally synonymous with the highest degree of efficiency, has confessed to making around 41,000 of its charge card and personal loan customers pay twice.

The errors, resulting from a computer glitch, arose between August 10 and August 12. M&S collected two lots of monthly direct debit payments from its customers' bank accounts. The store will

geoning financial services division now has 215,000 personal loan customers and five million charge card holders.

Yesterday, a spokeswoman for M&S apologised again. She promised that, if any of the customers who had overpaid had incurred bank charges, these would be refunded. She added: "We have called for a full investigation into the affair and we will be putting a system of checks to ensure that, if

double direct debiting happens again, the alarm bells will ring immediately."

There has been concern about the fast-growing direct debit system, which allows banks, finance houses and stores access to customers' bank accounts to gather regular bill payments. Last year, there were £3 billion direct debit payments.

Pennington, page 25

John Galsworthy.

Novelist, author of *The Silver Spoon*, 1926.

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Markets await US and German rate moves

By JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

MARKET concern about monetary policy in America and Germany should be partly relieved today when the Federal Open Market Committee meets to discuss US rates.

The markets believe that the Fed will opt to leave US rates unchanged for the time being, amid evidence that the economy's strong momentum

has begun to slow and that inflation remains studiously subdued. A Reuters poll of 30 economists last week showed that none forecast a rate move today.

The economy grew at a blistering 4.2 per cent in the second quarter but most economic indicators recently have suggested that the pace of growth has slowed. There was a 0.5 per cent drop in retail sales in June and a rise of only 0.1 per cent in July.

and housing starts slumped 1.3 per cent in July, the third drop in a row. This suggested that the consumer is beginning to rein back. But manufacturing also showed signs of cooling, with durable goods orders down 0.8 per cent in June, and industrial production up only 0.1 per cent in July.

In July, Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Fed, said that the central bank was on heightened surveil-

lance for inflation pressures but, at the same time, appeared to suggest that the threat was not believed to be imminent.

Later this week, the markets' focus shifts to the Bundesbank, which meets on Thursday to discuss German rates. Having appeared to rule out a cut in its key repurchase rate, several high-ranking Bundesbank members last week appeared to leave open the possibility of a cut and then disappointed expectations.

Much will depend on German money supply figures for July, due out tomorrow, whose growth is expected to have dropped significantly from the annual rate of 9.6 per cent in June.

The markets are hoping for a move on Thursday but there is still lingering scepticism. In recent months the Bundesbank has seemed to talk up the possibility of a rate cut and then disappointed expectations.

New scheme to sharpen skill for job applications

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Department for Education and Employment will today launch a £6 million programme to target people who have been unemployed for more than three months with a package of measures to improve job application skills.

The scheme, called Jobsearch Plus, will be devised to back up the Jobseekers Allowance, the tougher set of unemployment benefit regulations which come into force in October. Then, jobless people claiming benefit will face far more scrutiny over their attempts to find work and may suffer suspension of their payments. Claimants will have to sign a contract to receive benefit in which they are bound by requirements stipulated by a benefits officer

which will include the number of job applications per week they must make. Under the Jobseekers Allowance unemployed people can be ordered to apply for a job, or have their benefit halted.

Jobsearch Plus will be voluntary, although it is possible that people may be instructed to undertake it as part of their initial contracts, and will offer a three-day seminar for claimants who have been unemployed for 13 weeks. The instruction will concentrate on jobseeking skills, such as writing applications, compiling CVs and interview techniques.

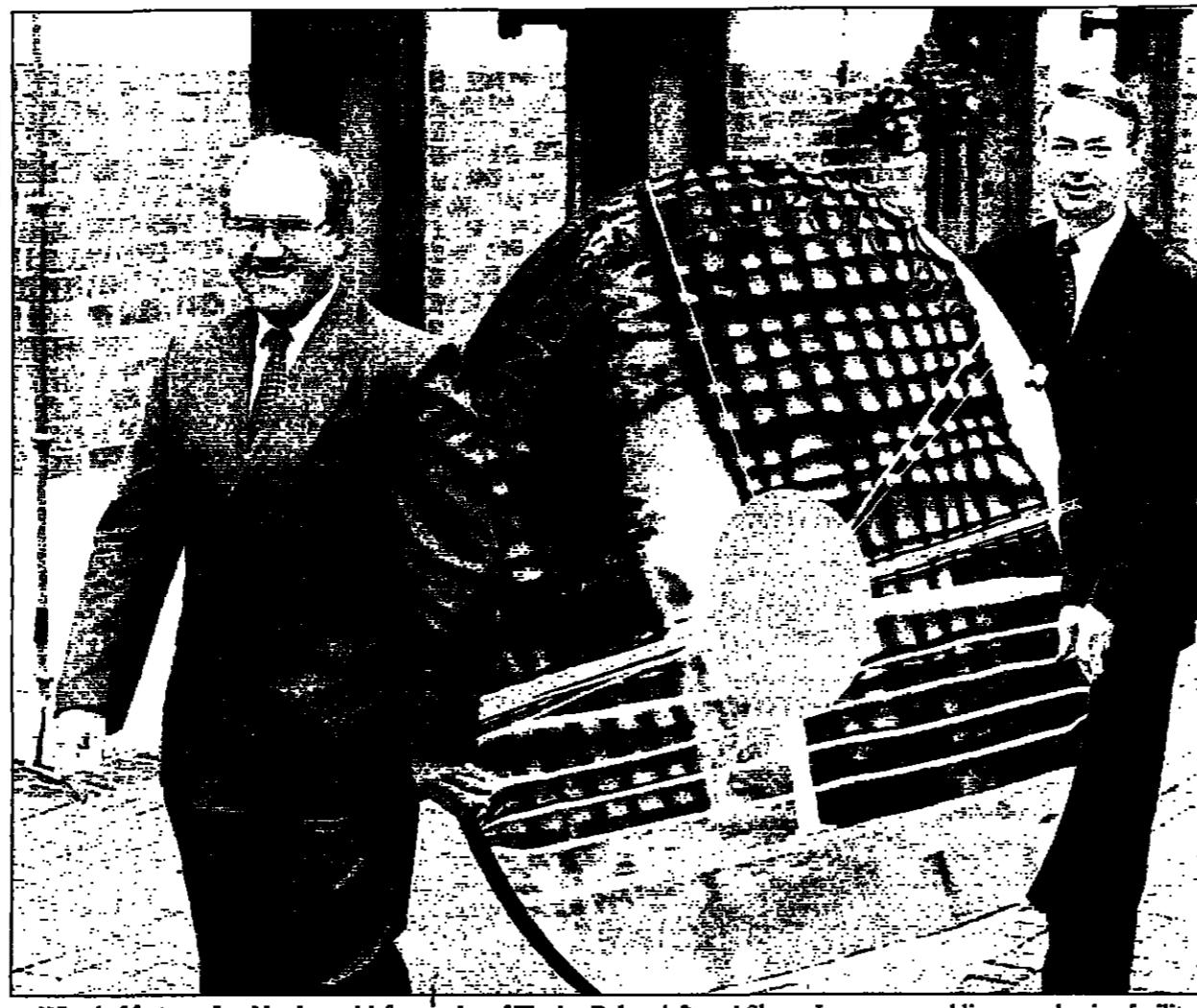
Eric Forth, employment minister, said: "Jobsearch Plus targets jobseekers who, after three months of unemployment, may feel that their jobseeking skills are flagging and who need help to increase their chances of getting work... Unemployment can be a demoralising experience and this programme will improve those skills which are vital for finding work." The scheme will be open to jobless people who have been claiming between 13 weeks and six months. After six months other programmes are available.

Those out of work for more than 13 weeks are forced to widen their search to jobs outside their chosen profession or the work they are skilled in. There are 1.5 million people who have been unemployed for more than 13 weeks, more than 70 per cent of the total jobless number. There are 355,500 people who have been unemployed between 13 weeks and six months.

According to the Department for Education and Employment, half of those who become unemployed find work within three months and two thirds within six months. Jobsearch Plus, which will run at Jobcentres and training centres, will focus on setting two job goals, identifying potential employers, preparing a CV, and preparing for interviews.

The new master plan for the site envisages more residential units.

Tempus, page 26



Wheel of fortune: Lee Newbon, chief executive of Tinsley Robor, left, and Shaun Lawson are adding a packaging facility

Change of plan for TH site

By CARL MORTISHED

CHELSFIELD and Godfrey Bradman, the developers, are seeking to build a £400 million waterside leisure and retail complex next to Paddington Station on a site formerly owned by Trafalgar House.

Chelsfield, the property group headed by Elliott Bernier, has teamed up with the former head of Rousehouse to develop the 12-acre site in Paddington Basin. European Land & Development, their joint vehicle, paid Kvaerner, Trafalgar's parent, £3 million for a 999-year lease from British Waterways, the freeholder.

The new master plan for the site envisages more residential units.

Tempus, page 26

Ten bidders vie to take over Kepit

By ROBERT MILLER

INDEPENDENT directors of Kleinwort Benson's £500 million European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) are considering takeover offers from ten investment houses.

These are believed to include bids from: Guinness Flight, Fleming, Morgan Grenfell and Fidelity, as well as one from Kleinwort Benson, Kepit's present managers.

The bidders are also believed to include Henderson Touché, Rennants' smaller European Growth Investment Trust (Treg), whose earlier bid for Kepit and the offer to liquidate the portfolio and give the money back to shareholders, sparked yesterday's deadline for offers.

Kepit's shares trade at a substantial discount to the net asset value of the underlying portfolio. Merrill Lynch is evaluating each bid.

Kept's shares trade at a substantial discount to the net asset value of the underlying portfolio. Merrill Lynch is evaluating each bid.

Loyalty knocks societies' profits

By ROBERT MILLER

TWO building societies committed to mutualism yesterday disclosed the cost of offering members better savings rates and long-term loyalty bonuses.

Profits from both the Coventry, the UK's 13th largest building society, and the Newcastle fell in the six months to June 30.

The Coventry, which reported that total assets grew to £3.6 billion (£3.3 billion), said that pre-tax profits fell £4 million to £14 million. The society added that its Members Benefits package would deliver benefits worth £20 million in a full year.

Long-term borrowers with a Coventry mortgage for more than five years are given a home loan rate of 6.24 per cent against an industry average standard variable rate of 6.99 per cent. The society said that as a result of its more competi-

tive savers' rates the Coventry attracted almost £93 million in additional retail funds.

Newcastle Building Society saw half-year pre-tax profits fall to £6.4 million against £7.3 million last time and said its 0.5 per cent discount for long-term borrowers would cost £870,000 at the full-year stage.

Provisions for bad and doubtful debt rose to £1.3 million from £1 million last year.

Newcastle reported record net savings of £73 million, while total assets grew by £3 million to £1.4 billion.

Skipton Building Society yesterday announced that half-year pre-tax profits rose to £1.1 million against £1.2 million in the same period last year. Assets increased to £2.93 billion (£2.85 billion). Leeds & Holbeck lifted half-year pre-tax profits by 10 per cent to £9.2 million.

Tinsley expands in Austria

By ROBERT MILLER

TINSLEY ROBOR, supplier of packaging to the music and multimedia publishing industries, is expanding in mainland Europe with the £1.1 million purchase of Reischl Druck in Austria (Martin Barrow writes).

The acquisition takes place in response to Sony's invitation to establish a packaging facility close to its two CD pressing plants in the Salzburg area. Sony has guaranteed a sales volume that should load the new factory for the next three years.

Shaun Lawson, chairman, said the acquisition was unlikely to have a positive impact in the current year but would lend confidence for future periods. Addressing the company's annual meeting he restated an early warning that the first half of the current year would be affected by the lack of large orders and losses arising from the relocation of the Dublin factory.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Hard-hit Hibernian raises its interim

STIFF competition and increased claims resulted in a sharp fall in interim pre-tax profit at Hibernian Group, the Irish insurance company, to £1.13 million from £1.92 million a year ago. Despite the poor performance, which saw earnings slide to £17.2p a share from £23.8p for the six months to June 30, the company announced an 11 per cent increase in the interim dividend to 13.1p.

Adrian Daly, chief executive, said the results were "satisfactory in markets which remain intensely competitive". Hibernian's biggest market, general insurance in Ireland, saw a two per cent drop in written premiums to £86.7 million and an underwriting loss of £7.69 million. In Britain claims arising from bonds in Manchester and London accounted for £450,000 of a £1.4 million operating loss. The international reinsurance and fund management sector saw profits rise to £1.84 million from just over £1 million last year, reflecting good property results.

Michael Page excels

MICHAEL PAGE reinforced its position as the City's leading recruitment consultancy yesterday with its interim results for the six months to June 30. Group pre-tax profits rose by 79 per cent to £14 million, lifted by profits of £4.81 million from its overseas subsidiaries. Its UK City operations delivered the strongest performance, lifting divisional profits by 70 per cent. Overall sales were 40 per cent ahead at £67.6 million. An interim dividend of 2p (1.1p) will be paid on November 11, from earnings which grew from 8.21p to 14.28p. Its shares leapt 28p to an all-time high of 34.5p yesterday.

Biotech network plan

BRITISH BIOTECH has taken an important step towards establishing a European sales network, with the appointment of Pam Kirby as director of international operations. Among the first tasks for Dr Kirby, for the last eight years head of the UK arm of Astra, the Swedish drug company, will be the recruitment of managers to run the sales teams planned for France, Italy, Germany and Spain. British Biotech hopes to launch its first drug, a treatment for acute pancreatitis, in early 1998, and to follow that in 1999 with marimastat, the cancer drug. Dr Kirby, 42, will join the company in two weeks' time.

Glencar to raise stake

GLENCAR, the Dublin exploration company, plans to become a majority shareholder in the Wassa gold mining project in Ghana by paying a little more than \$12.2 million for an additional 15.7 per cent stake. The company currently holds 45.2 per cent of Wassa Holdings Ltd, which owns 90 per cent of a large gold mining lease in the west of Ghana. The Ghanaian Government holds a 10 per cent stake. The other major holders in Wassa are Moydow (39.1 per cent) and the Emerging Markets Gold Fund (15.7 per cent). The plan will be put to Glencar shareholders at an extraordinary meeting before October 1.

Irish car sales advance

CAR sales in the Irish Republic jumped almost 4,000 in April compared with the same month last year, according to figures released yesterday by the Central Statistics Office in Dublin. The April total of 14,280 continues the steady upward trend established in earlier months. Overall vehicle sales were 16,900, up from 12,050 in April 1995. Ireland's buoyant economy and a scrappage scheme, under which owners of old cars who trade in their vehicles for new models get £1,000 off registration costs, is fueling the increased demand.

Smith buys Dickinson

DAVID S SMITH, the packaging, paper and office products group, is buying John Dickinson Stationery, a UK producer of envelopes and stationery, from Biber Holdings, the Swiss industrial group, for about £18 million. Dickinson, which is based near Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, has annual turnover of £50 million but has traded at a loss throughout the 1990s. Its activities will be combined with Spicers, the Smith subsidiary engaged in the manufacture of stationery.

French rate unchanged

THE Bank of France left its official interest rates unchanged during a money market operation yesterday. The repurchase rate remains at 4.75 per cent and the tender rate at 3.55 per cent. The bank last reduced its five-to-ten day repurchase rate by 15 basis points to 4.75 per cent on August 1. The tender rate was set at 3.55 per cent on July 4. The operation came as financial markets speculate of a possible cut in German interest rates when the Bundesbank's policymaking central council meets on Thursday.

Headlam acquires rival

HEADLAM GROUP, the fabrics company, is acquiring Sundour Fabrics from Courtaulds Textiles for £2.7 million. Sundour, with annual sales of about £13 million, operates in markets that are currently served by Headlam's existing fabrics business. Internal management accounts show net assets of about £3.5 million at June 30 and an operating loss of £83,000 for the six months to June 30. Headlam shares were unchanged at 27.7p yesterday.

Mannesmann ahead

MANNESMANN, the German industrial group, increased profits 27.6 per cent to DM180 million after tax in the six months to June 30. The company attributed the rise in the half-year profit to improvements in the telecommunications and auto divisions. Revenue for the period rose 2 per cent to DM15.5 billion. For the year as a whole, Mannesmann said it expected to register an 11 per cent improvement in operating profits above the DM911 million it reported in 1995.

Banks feel the heat as new cards launched

A CREDIT card war is set to flare up as high street banks battle to hold market share in the face of an onslaught by a new generation of lenders.

Another two credit cards were launched yesterday, with Lakeside, the largest shopping centre in the South of England, offering its own Visa card and Royal Bank of Scotland linking up with American Airlines to promote the Royal Bank AAdvantage MasterCard.

Fernando Agos, an analyst at Datamonitor, the management consultancy, says: "In a UK

market where the number of cardholders has risen to an historic peak with only one in four households now having a credit card, the new entrants are inevitable."

He adds: "NatWest's deal with Tesco offers it access to a large customer base, protecting the economies of scale it needs to compete in the credit card market in the long-term."

Datamonitor says that new entrants are likely to be

smaller and less profitable than the established players, but will be able to compete on price.

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□ Exchange reviews progress of junior market □ Tokyo joins the real world □ Costain in trouble over rescue package

WHEN the Stock Exchange set up the Alternative Investment Market more than a year ago, the idea was to avoid a crook's playground where spivvy second-rate brokers peddled fly-by-night companies to greedy and over-credulous investors.

We have not got to that state of affairs yet. But the Exchange is going to have to take some swift remedial action if it is to be avoided, and the Exchange's record on swift remedial action is not a good one. The idea behind AIM was that the escalating cost of gaining a main market listing, £500,000 at least, had put this beyond the purses of most small companies. This cost had been soaring as the requirements of disclosure, verification and the other legal hoops debutantes must leap through became more onerous. At the same time, the former shares kindergarten, the Unlisted Securities Market, was on Death Row, killed off by Euro-legislation. The various alternatives, such as trading shares on a matched bargain basis, had been discredited.

There is a crying need for a form of listing for smaller companies with little track record and few profits as yet, but possibly world-beating ideas that need funding. Venture capital is too expensive a route. A kindergarten ought by rights be unaffected by turmoils on the main

market, sophisticated investors being more concerned with long-term value than where their investments might be a month or two hence.

In the event, regulation of AIM was loaded onto brokers or other financial advisers bringing the company to market. If they felt all was well and went ahead, they put their reputations on the line, and this would keep down costs to their clients.

Unfortunately what has happened is that large brokers such as BZW and UBS, having by now used AIM to find homes for existing clients where needed, are no longer interested. The risk to their reputation is too high, the fees too small. This has left the field clear for the smaller players, and some have acquired enviable reputations. Many have large private client lists they pillage ruthlessly for new victims. Some prospectuses sent to these bear none of the prominent "wealth warnings" that had been proposed.

Furthermore, one small broker has the distinction of running into some sort of trouble over fully half the companies it

has brought to market, or at least attempted to — one listing had to be pulled when a regulatory authority took an unhealthy interest in earlier share dealings.

The Stock Exchange is conducting a review into AIM over the next couple of months, and will shortly name an outside consultant — described as a "very senior level corporate financier". The Exchange has the right to ban an adviser from AIM sponsorship. This would mean the listings of all its clients would have to be withdrawn if alternative sponsors cannot be found. A few condign disqualifications would now seem in order.

Corporate loyalty — Japanese style

EXTRAORDINARY times in Japan, where six years of economic hardship are requiring even the banks to open up to the outside. The latest set of trade figures shows that the recent depreciation of the yen that has been official policy to boost the economy has had little effect on Japan's balance of trade.



economic purgatory has been on that curious cat's cradle of cross-shareholdings that have acted as much as cultural differences to keep corporate Japan immune from outside raiders. Japanese corporations are having to sell off these stakes to make up for the falling value of assets like securities and property.

The explicit purpose of these holdings has always been to protect companies from hostile takeovers, maintain close business ties and support share prices. Now a study by Daiwa Research says the number of shares held in cross-shareholding deals totals 49 per cent of all outstanding shares in listed companies.

This is important, because it was this that created fierce trade rows and helped to send the yen soaring in the first place. This was to the benefit of the American car industry. Now Japanese car exports are rising again, and exports generally picking up across the economy.

Local firms are indeed sourcing from outside Japan or moving factories offshore for cheap labour and then bringing the goods back into the country. This may boost imports, but exports still rose by 17 per cent in value terms in July.

One of the odder effects of

they are busy being sold down the river by their banks. So much for corporate loyalty Japanese-style. Welcome to the real world.

By-passing the market's rules

THE protesters trying to block the Newbury by-pass must be laughing so much at the predicament of its builder, Costain, that they are in danger of falling out of their trees. The once proud company is now threatened with losing its Stock Exchange listing.

Costain has successfully raised £74 million, but to get this away the group was willing to give three quarters of its shares to either the banks or a new-found friend, Intria Berhad of Malaysia, thereby flinging with sanctions from the authorities. Costain was able to persuade the Takeover Panel to allow Intria to go over 29.9 per cent without having to make a bid. One dissident Middle Eastern investor, the Saudi Arabian group Raymond, supported the financial restructuring but the other, Kharafi of Kuwait, has

become a real problem. Kharafi took up its shares and bought more to curb Intria's influence, leaving 77 per cent of Costain's equity in just three hands, a breach of the Stock Exchange's listing requirements.

Costain will be hard pressed to persuade Intria, Kharafi or Raymond to sell any of their holdings. It now must persuade the Exchange that there is enough of a market for the other 15,000 shareholders to make it worth retaining the listing. They are the ones whose interests are at stake. In sharp contrast to the situation on AIM, an over-exuberant application of the rules here will do nobody but the Newbury protesters any good.

Top Marks

MARKS & SPENCER has wisely put its hands up and come quietly over the snarl-up that has had customers billed twice for the same amount. The company could have followed the banks' example and argued the toss for months, but 40,000 sets of double debits might seem like 39,999 coincidences too far. Instead, Marks is blaming computer error. Is this the same sort of computer error the banks say can never happen, whenever anyone challenges a "phantom withdrawal" from one of their hole-in-the-wall machines?

Wall St stunned as Mandl quits top AT&T post

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

ALEX J MANDL the executive widely tipped to be the next chairman of AT&T, yesterday stunned Wall Street by revealing he is to quit America's largest long-distance telephone company.

Mr Mandl, 52, has resigned as president and chief operating officer of AT&T to join Associated Communications, a small but ambitious wireless communications firm that will develop high-capacity wireless networks in American cities.

Mr Mandl was the highest-ranking operations executive at AT&T, one of three reporting directly to Robert Allen, the chairman and chief executive. Some analysts believed Mr Mandl was earmarked to replace Mr Allen, 61, when he retires in 2000.

AT&T said the search for a successor would get underway immediately. The company was anxious to reassure investors that its ambitious demerger plans remained on track.

Last September, AT&T announced it would split in three, with the main AT&T becoming purely a communications service firm. It spun off its communications equipment business this spring as Lucent Technologies and plans to spin off NCR, its computer manufacturing unit, later this year. Yesterday, Mr Allen said those plans remain on schedule.

Mr Mandl, who joined AT&T in 1991, played a leading role in the \$11 billion acquisition of McCaw Cellular Communications, the nation's largest cellular company, in late 1994.



Mike Smith, chief executive of Argos, saw interim profits bound 45 per cent to £31.8 million as he concentrated on offering value for money

Argos unveils plans for Dutch drive as interim sales soar

BY PAUL DURMAN

ARGOS, the catalogue retailing group, gave more details of its planned expansion into The Netherlands as it reported exceptionally strong first-half sales and profits.

The company intends to open its first Dutch store in 1998. It plans to spend £6 million over the next 16 months as it recruits 50 Dutch staff, acquires premises, and modifies its catalogue and retailing system to meet the Dutch market.

Argos was reporting a 45 per cent jump in interim pre-tax profits to £31.8 million. This was on the back of an 18 per cent increase in sales to £561 million. Argos has main-

tained this sales growth into the first weeks of the second half. What really impressed the City was the 11.1 per cent increase that Argos achieved in first-half like for like sales, which strip out the benefit from new store openings.

Tony Shire, BZW's retail analyst, said: "They have obliterated the profits forecasts. The figure for like is just phenomenal." Nick Bubb, at Mees Pierson, said Argos had produced "fantastic figures". The shares rose 14p to 75p, valuing Argos at more than £2.1 billion. City profit forecasts for this year were increased to £150 million or more.

Argos attributes its rapid sales growth — much better

than other leading UK retailers — to its determination to offer value for money. Most of the 3,500 products re-included in the latest Argos catalogue are no dearer, and Mr Smith said, Argos has cut the prices of about 1,400 of them.

Operating profits rose even

more sharply than the pre-tax total, by 63 per cent to £25.5 million. Pre-tax profits were held back by the loss of interest income on the company's cash pile that followed Argos' recent payment of special dividends totalling £126.8 million.

Argos is increasing its interim dividend by 32.5 per cent to 5.3p. Earnings per share were 46.5 per cent higher at 7.06p. In spite of the special dividend, Argos ended the half with £102.9 million in cash. Mr Smith said Argos remained interested in acquisitions in its areas of merchandise expertise: jewellery, consumer electronics, housewares and toys. However, he said Argos is not talking to anybody at the moment, thus ruling the company out of Signet's sale of its H Samuel jewellery business.

Argos Direct, the home delivery operation, increased first half sales 41 per cent to £40 million.

Tempus, page 26

Refuge life assets under attack as merger looms

BY MARIANNE CURPHEY

REFUGE Assurance has been accused of short-changing shareholders as it prepares to merge with United Friendly, its fellow life insurer, to create a new company, United Assurance.

Perpetual, a leading fund manager and one of Refuge's largest shareholders with a 7 per cent stake, says Refuge's assets in its life fund are worth far more than stated in the merger document.

Neil Woodford, Perpetual's senior investment manager, is meeting both companies tomorrow to challenge the £631 million assessment of Refuge's embedded value. Perpetual believes the figure is closer to £1 billion.

Mr Woodford, who is threatening to vote against the merger at a shareholders' meeting on September 9, claims the deal has been "put together in a hasty" and has accused the management-in-



making clear the size of expected cost savings after the merger.

John Cudworth, Refuge's chief executive, was not available for comment yesterday.

Refuge and United Friendly said earlier this month that they were unsure how large the savings were likely to be.

When pressed, they named a figure close to £15 million.

Profits lift for Taylor Nelson

BY FRASER NELSON

TAYLOR NELSON, the UK's largest market research group, yesterday returned the strongest interim results of its 29-year history.

The results were helped by Fashiontrack, the consumer clothing and footwear monitor launched last October, which achieved profitability six months ahead of schedule.

Tony Cowling, chief executive, said the grocery unit, Superpanel, was now its largest single product after a two-year investment programme. Pre-tax profit was 12 per cent ahead at £4 million, on turnover, which rose by 12 per cent, to £42.4 million. Sales from its healthcare and marketing divisions both rose by 19 per cent, to £6.4 million and £4.7 million respectively. Revenue from its core consumer division rose by 9 per cent, to £19.4 million. Earnings were 1.23p per share (1.11p), allowing an interim dividend of 1.2p (1.25p) payable on De-



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THE QUEEN'S
ANNIVERSARY PRIZES

1994



Promise of payout shunts Railtrack to record price

RAILTRACK managed to build up a full head of steam, closing at its highest level since its flotation in May. The shares ended the session 2p dearer at a record high of 250p as almost five million shares changed hands in a market where traders normally deal in 100,000 at a time.

Brokers say that the resurgence of institutional demand is in anticipation of a "big, fat" dividend due to be paid out by the company soon. The shares go ex-dividend on Tuesday, after which investors who buy the shares will not qualify. Liberal dividend payments were the main plank of the Government's strategy for attracting investors to Railtrack when it was originally privatised.

Elsewhere, share prices paused for breath in the wake of last week's record-breaking run. This was in response to a disappointing performance from Wall Street on Friday and an uncertain start by the Dow Jones average yesterday ahead of today's Federal Open Market Committee meeting. Having lost an early five-point rise, the FT-SE 100 index traded sideways for much of the session before closing with a loss of 9.2 points on the day at 3,863.7. The long list of companies that did go ex-dividend was the equivalent of a seven-point fall in the index.

Once again trading conditions proved thin, with just 440 million shares recorded by the close.

The early focus of attention was on Thorn and EMI after the split. Shares of Thorn in their new, slim-line form finished a disappointing session 19p down at 391p on turnover of 11.8 million, while EMI was pushed 37p higher at 14.60 as three million were traded.

Talk of an early takeover of EMI was discounted by most brokers who follow the stock. The only company likely to make such a move is MCA, which has already ruled itself out of the running. Thorn remains a constituent of the top 100 shares despite the demerger, while EMI, because of its size, also becomes a constituent. This may explain the rise in its price as index tracker funds attempted to increase their weighting in the stock. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, was recommending EMI to clients along with SBC Warburg, the company's own broker. EMI's inclusion in the FT-SE 100 has



Almost five million shares in Railtrack, up 2p, changed hands

resulted in Cookson, 11p, firm at 250p, losing its place. Constituents are calculated every quarter in terms of their capitalisation.

Orange firmed 1p to 137p ahead of its first set of figures, later today, since going public. Brokers are looking for a pre-tax loss of around £10 million in the first half, reflecting high development costs. The shares

Tradepoint Financial Networks, the Stock Exchange rival that came to market at 175p in April, closed yesterday at 130p. It is confident it can break even by the end of next year and says the average value of deals executed has doubled to £160.000. It has plans to diversify into other financial markets, possibly bonds.

were originally offered at 250p, but were hit last month by disappointing second-quarter subscriber rates.

BAT Industries continued to lose ground with the price touching 449p before ending the session 13p lower at 432p. The shares fell sharply last week after a US court ruled in favour of a smoker who complained he had not been made fully aware by Brown &

better than even their most optimistic forecasts.

In May, Argos reported a 17 per cent increase in sales during the first four months and that pace had been maintained. Much of the improvement had come from sales of furniture and bedding, although competition was expected to intensify in the second half during the run-up to Christmas. SBC Warburg,

in the futures pit trading

closed with just 26,000 contracts completed as the September series of the long gilt finished 1.8p easier at 110.8p.

In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost five ticks at 199.16, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was unmoved at 103.19/2.

□ **NEW YORK:** On Wall Street, investors awaited developments on interest rates and shares were little changed by midday, with the Dow Jones Industrial average down 0.74 points at 5,688.71.

In the futures pit trading

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2015 lost five ticks at 199.16,

while at the shorter end Treasury

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□ **EUROPE:** Investors chose to keep their powder dry ahead of some significant economic data due out this week and the start of the Federal Reserve Open Market committee meeting. As a result, prices were left to drift lower in thin trading, along with other bond markets.

The money supply numbers

are published today, followed

tomorrow by retail sales. Brokers were doubtful that the Fed committee would move to raise US interest rates despite recent market volatility.

In the futures pit trading

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In longs, Treasury 8 per cent

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□ **EURO SWISS:** France

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□ **WHITE SUGAR (FOB):** Prices

were 10.50c higher at 13.31c

Oct 20/25. Oct 25/30. Oct 30/35. Dec 10/15. Dec 15/20. Dec 20/25. Mar 25/30. Volume: 765

□ **MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION:** Average price of all representative markets on August 10

(kg/lb) Pig Sheep Cattle

Oct 20/25 10.50 10.50 10.50

Oct 25/30 10.50 10.50 10.50

Oct 30/35 10.50 10.50 10.50

Dec 10/15 10.50 10.50 10.50

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1 vessel

THE TIMES
CITY DIARY

Visa tests the hackers

HOW do you tackle electronic fraud? Call in the experts. Visa International has hired professional hackers to try and crack a "foolproof" system for conducting financial transactions on the Internet.

Testa at Visa's offices in London and San Francisco will have a key bearing on the future of electronic banking.

Payment card providers hope to establish a benchmark system — Secure Electronic Transaction (SET) — as the industry standard for Internet banking. Hans van der Velde, president of Visa's European operations, says none of the hackers has yet succeeded in cracking the system.

The first of the new cards is due in the UK next year.

Lloyds dilemma

WHEN Lloyds Bank announced it was taking over Cheltenham & Gloucester Building Society and then TSB Group last year it was widely held that Sir Brian Pitman had an heir and a spare. But by early this year Andrew Longhurst was making it clear that he was no longer a candidate for chief executive, despite the success of the mortgage business. Now word reaches us from the offices surrounding the yellow limeum on the executive floor of Lloyds' head office in Lombard street that Peter Elwood is not quite the international banker that the board wants to fill the role. It might be time for Sir Brian to get out his chequebook again to buy another company and a chief executive, otherwise



Sir Brian: another buy?

an outsider candidate may have to be appointed.

Crash course

HE'S BACK! Jeffrey Robinson, best-selling author of *The Laundryman*, is back in print with *The Hotel* (Simon & Schuster, £15.99), which shadows life in the hallowed corridors of Claridge's. And a curious life it is, too — from the guest who handed over his watch as payment for his bill, to the visitor who requested an Indian elephant for a ride in Regent's Park. And if you experience guilt at removing the odd bar of soap or shampoo from your room — get this. Robinson tells of the guest who helped himself to an entire breakfast service, steadily removing cups, saucers, coffee pots and cutlery. The general manager foiled him by having his suitcases "accidentally" thrown down the stairs.

Cold facts

AS THE City sweltered yesterday and Argos produced pretty hot results, its stores were already into winter mode. The winter catalogue, launched in late July, is big on snowboots but has no hosepipe attachments and is short on swimwear. They will be available in January, no doubt.

DRIVERS on holiday in the remote parts of Finland ought to be careful. The Finnish police plan to start using a harpoon-fired from the front bumper of police patrol cars which pierces the boot of a fleeing vehicle. As the police car brakes, the offending driver is forced to slow down.



Good times may be around the corner but confidence is taking a long time to return to consumers who lack job security and are fearful of negative equity

Silver lining of recovery is tarnished by caution

Alasdair Murray on the fundamental change in attitude of 1990s consumers

The date on the invitation seems to have been changed several times and you are a little baffled by the "sold" sign outside the venue, but the noise coming from inside suggests that you have the right time and place. You nudge your battered car between the rows of gleaming "P" regas and wander in through the freshly painted front door. You advance through the crowded room, where everyone seems to be wearing conspicuously new clothes, carefully sidestepping the man from the Halifax who is trying to engage anyone who will listen in a conversation about house prices. On the far side of the room, you think you spy a smiling Ken Clarke, pausing between sips of a strong-looking cocktail to read the CD to play James Brown's soul classic *Feel Good*. Only a sombre-faced Eddie George lookalike seems not to be enjoying himself, standing alone and muttering something about "inflation" and how "it will all end in tears".

You know you too should be enjoying yourself: after all the party has been thrown in your honour. But somehow you just can't feel that something is not quite right...

Ever since Norman Lamont rather optimistically spotted the "green shoots of recovery" four years ago, the return of the "feel-good" factor has remained an elusive goal. But it is only in the last few months that genuine evidence has begun to emerge that consumers are recovering some confidence.

The headline statistics are clear — retail spending is rising, house prices are rising, incomes are rising and unemployment is falling — leading some commentators to hail the start of a 1980s-style "shop till you drop" boom. But the numbers are often deceptive, concealing the patchy and fragile nature of the recovery.

Retail spending is expected to show a rise again when the figures for July are published on Wednesday. But after June's 1.3 per cent jump, taking the annual rate of growth to 3.3 per cent, economists are predicting more modest growth for July. There is also plenty of evidence that despite the recent growth in spending prices remain under pressure in the high street, with the retailers continuing to discount heavily. Spending also appears to be concentrated on a relatively small number of areas: consumer durables such as electrical goods, clothing and footwear and domestic services which include nannies, child minders and cleaning services. Housing-related expenditure has improved but has hardly reached boom proportions.

Peter Warburton, UK economist at Robert Fleming Securities, believes that this patchy spending record is

partly because of the rather mixed improvement in incomes. On the surface, incomes appear to be rising at their fastest level since the late 1980s. Personal balance sheets improved by 9 per cent between the end of June 1995 and June 1996 — a rise of 6.4 per cent in real terms. But much of the gain derives from the booming stock market which boosts dividend payments and stock market-based investments. For most people these gains only register in their pension funds — which will hardly prompt a rush of spending. The increase in real household disposable income — excluding pension and life funds — is more modest. The figures also disguise the fact that real wealth is still recovering from a five-year period of decline — by 15 per cent between 1990 and 1995.

The other principal measure of people's wealth — average earnings — has also begun to register more positively in recent months. Average earnings growth measured 3.75 per cent in July. In contrast, the tax and prices index, which measures the impact of inflation and direct taxation, fell to 0.6 per cent, its

lowest level in recent years. This implies that real earnings growth stands at around 3 per cent.

But the tax and prices index is a slightly crude measurement which does not accommodate council tax or indirect taxation. Equally, much of the recent rise in pay can be ascribed to bumper bonuses paid out by companies to already high-earning staff off the back of a strong corporate performance last year. In contrast, figures published by the CBI yesterday point to pay rises in the manufacturing sector — traditionally most vulnerable to pay inflation — falling back in the second quarter.

Mrs Warburton believes that the spending and income data point to a very mixed improvement in consumer wealth and confidence with only certain sections of the population faring particularly well. He says: "I think that the rise in spending is very vulnerable. Income growth remains surprisingly tight and much of it is coming from irregular incomes such as self-employment and bonuses."

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Unemployment is declining yet so is the quality of the jobs available

BUSINESS LETTERS

BA alliance is one way to maintain UK's position as a leader in the world aviation industry

From Gwyneth Dunwoody MP

Sir, I have been interested to see the ongoing correspondence from British Airways and Virgin Atlantic regarding the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines. The tribunal would also offer a mechanism to look after the consumer's interests.

Caparo judgment emphasised the stewardship aspect of accounts

From Mr D. R. Myddleton

Sir, Duncan Alexander (Letters, August 13) says: "Since the rather strange House of Lords Caparo judgment in 1990, investors have lost their right to make investment judgments on audited accounts". This is a bizarre interpretation.

The point of Caparo is that

competition of the proposed alliance between British Airways and American Airlines is understandable. However, after careful consideration I believe, as did the majority of the Transport Select Committee, that there was no merit in a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. The tribunal would also offer a mechanism to look after the consumer's interests.

ship documents. It is surprising that only as an afterthought did the Accounting Standards Board insert "stewardship" as one of the purposes of accounting in their now withdrawn draft Statement of Principles.

Backward-looking accounts are not intended to help speculators predict the uncertain future. The Companies Act has a separate part dealing

with prospectuses. Hence modern emphasis on "decision-usefulness" as the primary purpose of accounts is misguided.

Yours faithfully,
D. R. MYDDLETON
Professor Finance
and Accounting,
Cranfield School of
Management,
Cranfield,
Bedford.

According to many of the airlines who submitted evidence to the recent Transport Committee inquiry, their demands could be met with reasonably modest increases in the slot allocations at Heathrow. This small increase could be accommodated by the increase in slot capacity already identified.

We need urgent consideration of the introduction of mixed-mode operations at Heathrow, which would also provide a further ten slots per hour. Whilst not underestimating the environmental considerations of such a move, a public consultation exercise is needed.

Both the airline industry and the travelling public benefit from fair competition in the aviation market. The key aim must be to ensure that the major UK carriers are able to compete against their foreign counterparts.

The trend towards the concentration of the aviation sector is set to continue and will be accelerated following the full liberalisation of the aviation market by the European Union in 1997. The proposed alliance could also stimulate similar deals between other carriers.

An alliance between British Airways and American Airlines is one way of ensuring that the UK aviation industry does not lose out and ensures that the UK maintains its position as a leader in the world aviation industry.

Only then will we protect the thousands of UK jobs reliant on its success. Yours faithfully,

GWYNETH
DUNWOODY, MP,
Labour Crewe & Nantwich,
Senior Member Transport
Committee,
House of Commons.

The choice now on interest rates

From Mr W. R. Eyes

Sir, The boom in retail sales and consumer credit reported in your August 9 edition means there is little justification for a further drop in interest rates. Virtually the only argument left for one is the slackness of manufacturing output.

On past experience, however, cheaper credit now would be more likely to intensify the consumer boom and finance

property speculation than lead to a rise in manufacturing activity and investment.

The case for a rise in interest rates now, as put by the Charterhouse group (*The Times*, August 7) is that a stich in time, so to speak, would save a 9 per cent rate next year. It is a reasonable choice.

Yours faithfully,
RONALD EYES,
27 Grove Terrace, NW5.

Evidence of changing times at the Bank

From H. M. Gadsby

Sir, When Lord Crampton was at the Bank it was respected and he was the Governor. The present incumbent might be called its chairman, but regrettably, the respect has long since evaporated. Before the disastrous so-called Big Bang, one might be asked to let the Bank know if he came across



JANET
BUSH

Jordan placed on breadline

Think back to the future that greeted Norman Lamont's announcement that he was imposing VAT on domestic fuel and you can imagine, if only dimly, the dismay of Jordanians faced with the overnight doubling of the price of bread.

The trigger for three days of violent rioting was last Tuesday's abolition of subsidies on bread. Subsidies on cattle fodder had already been removed some weeks ago as part of an International Monetary Fund "stabilisation" programme. The price of dairy products has risen 20 per cent. Bread has jumped from 12 cents a kilo to 26 cents a kilo.

According to the IMF's sister organisation, the World Bank, 15 per cent of Jordanians are estimated to be living below the most widely accepted definition of the poverty line. The poor spend half their income on food. Bread is their staple diet.

King Husain has promised to deal with rioters with an iron fist and has accused disruptive foreign elements — easily decipherable code for Iraq — of whipping up discontent.

Relations with Iraq, Jordan's most important trading partner until they fell out after the Gulf War, deteriorate further.

Israel, with whom Jordan signed its historic peace agreement in 1994 amid hopes of a lucrative peace dividend, looks on nervously.

Jordan, a political oasis in the livid Middle Eastern landscape, threatens to become a source of instability.

To a British person, far better off than the average Jordanian and enjoying the comparative luxury of VAT exemption on food and items deemed necessary in a civilised society, such as books, doubling the price of bread may seem an astonishing move.

The labour market tells a similar story. The headline figures show steadily falling unemployment — which stood at 7.6 per cent in July, its lowest level for five years. But the total number of people in work has actually fallen in the first part of this year, suggesting that many people are simply disappearing from the job market by taking early retirement or moving on to other benefits.

There is also ample evidence that many of the jobs being created are part-time or short-term and hardly conducive to long-term spending plans.

The Henley Centre, the economic research consultancy, argues that the patchy and fragile nature of the recovery in consumer confidence hints at some longer-term shifts in consumer attitudes. Polls are finding even now that consumers, and especially those over 35, are surprisingly gloomy.

Stephen Radley, an economist at Henley, says: "In the 1980s people were spoilt. Income and house prices were rising fast and this set a yardstick. The Government had the benefit of North Sea oil and privatisation receipts which enabled it to cut taxes whilst increasing public expenditure.

But the Government can no longer juggle tax cuts and public spending so easily, and something will inevitably have to give. Just as people are feeling increasingly insecure about their jobs, they face a tough choice between some extra money in their wage packets or trying to preserve the state safety net. Spending tax cuts on sickness and unemployment insurance, to cover the growing gaps in provision, will not make the consumer feel good. For the moment, things might be getting slightly better, but being a consumer is just not quite as much fun as it used to be.

King Husain meets one of his soldiers in riot-torn Jordan

anything which they might like to know. I suppose everyone is now so glued to their "screens" that they fail to notice what, for instance, Messrs Barings were up to! Yours faithfully,
H. M. GADSBY,
Hanger Down House,
Tortington, Arundel,
West Sussex.

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

BRIEFINGS

A free guide to credit management for developing businesses has been produced by Cimco, which provides credit insurance for small businesses. Cimco found that many small companies were risking late payment or non-payment of bills because they found the administration involved in taking out credit insurance too great a burden. Copies from 01923 478105.

□ A one-day workshop on media relations is to be run at Teignbridge Business Centre, Newton Abbot, on October 1 by Churchill Associates and Business Link South Devon. The cost is £50, plus VAT. Details from Sandra Churchill on 01626 852030.

□ Business Link Hereford and Worcester has teamed up with NCM Credit Insurance to offer credit cover for small businesses. Information from Eric Brown on 01905 616161.

□ The question of why some family businesses are successful, such as Sainsbury's, while others never progress beyond Stepie and Son will be posed at an Institute of Directors conference at the IoD's London headquarters on September 19. The conference, Living with the Family Business, costs £25 for members or £30 for non-members, plus VAT. Details on 0171-730 0022.

□ One-day courses for people considering setting up franchises are to be held by the London Enterprise Agency. The first course in the programme is on September 27. Details: 0171-236 3000.

Going underground

Mark Andrews
on the farmer
who unearthed
a new career

A carpet of bluebells provides an innocent cover. A well-trodden footpath, snaking through an overgrown Essex wood on the A128, leads to a brick cottage.

Despite the tranquillity, this is bunkerland. Beneath this 25-acre patch rests a legacy of the Cold War. Buried 100ft underground is a three-storey building.

It is one of a network of underground nuclear bombproof shelters that would have housed the Government in the event of a nuclear attack.

The one at Kelvedon Hatch was put up for auction by the Government a year ago. A sealed bid – believed to be around £100,000 – by Michael Parrish, a local farmer, won the day.

Mr Parrish, 48, has turned it into a museum. "We're still in our first year, and, although it's a bit early to say how successful we're going to be, early indications are that people are fascinated."

"Building this place cost millions, and I think people – taxpayers – want to see what they got for their money. And also a peek behind the Cold War curtain, to see how the Government left it. The museum has a message – it tells us how lucky we were that an



Michael Parrish in the military command room at the Cold War bunker which is now a museum

Cold War castle doesn't come on the market every day of the week," says Mr Parrish. "They were built in the early 1950s and equipped to the highest standards. I bought everything. A ready-made Cold War museum. Most people when they come in just cannot believe the size of the bunker."

He takes groups round on the hour every hour, giving a running commentary that takes in a telephone exchange, a BBC studio, a communications centre that is now

part of the Internet, a canteen, the Prime Minister's room, complete with bed, and a reclining wax figure of John Major. But the highlight is the small sickbay which includes a field hospital operating theatre, a morgue, with body bags hanging on the wall, and cardboard coffins.

"Everything is original – except the John Major figure," Mr Parrish says. "It is exactly as the Government left it. The museum has a message – it tells us how lucky we were that an

atomic war never took place." He adds: "Until now my life has centred on being a farmer. This is a dramatic switch – talking and interacting with the public. My grandfather sold this land to the Government more than 40 years ago for £2,500 for the bunker to be built. It's nice to have it back."

The bunker is at Kelvedon Hatch on the A128 out of Brentwood. Entry is £5 for adults, £3 for children (aged 5-16), £12 family ticket. Tel: 01277 364853.

Take a positive view on stiffer health rules

By BRIAN COLLETT

IGNORING the stronger health and safety regulations, however tempting this may be to small businesses, could be a dangerous waste economy. The warning comes with a new guide written by a leading health and safety expert.

Breaches of the law – under which every employer must appoint a health and safety manager – carry a maximum £20,000 fine.

Yet Jeremy Stranks, who compiled the guide for RRC Business Training, of Wimbledon, south-west London, said some companies ask themselves: "Should we pay £20,000 to train and employ a health and safety manager, or should we live with the possibility of a £20,000 fine if we get caught breaking the law?" Many small businesses even feel they cannot afford the training.

The maximum fine, of course, is unlikely, and the chances of breaches being discovered are remote because the Health and Safety Executive, which enforces the laws, is short of resources.

There are, however, less obvious costs after an accident resulting from an inadequate health and safety policy, said RRC. The employee has to be paid while on sick leave, temporary staff may have to be recruited, equipment may be damaged in the accident, and insurance premiums may be raised.

The employee may then demand compensation and could pursue

the claim in court. The publicity could be damaging. The Health and Safety Executive has calculated that workplace accidents and work-related illnesses cost employers between £4 billion and £9 billion annually.

RRC, however, maintains that a health and safety policy to cut the risks need not be too costly.

In a small business, an employee could add the health and safety to existing duties. Alternatively, a consultant could assume the role for a modest fee. One bonus might be lower insurance premiums if a sound policy is demonstrated.

The *Health and Safety Law Ready Reckoner* is obtainable from RRC on 0181-947 7772.



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■ EDINBURGH

The New York Philharmonic and Kurt Masur excel in two concerts at the festival



■ EDINBURGH

... while Michael Chance sings in Mark Morris's cool, beguiling staging of Gluck's *Orfeo*

THE TIMES ARTS



■ PROMS

Mahler's Fifth Symphony is given a superb interpretation by the Oslo Philharmonic



■ TOMORROW

Keeping the spirit alive: the Martha Graham Dance Company comes to Edinburgh

DONALD COOPER

Masur takes a walk on the wildish side

MUSIC: Gerald Larner does the concert rounds from Evgeny Kissin to the New York Philharmonic

While it might just be possible to argue, from a limited point of view, that Brian McMaster's Edinburgh Festival is "tame" — in the sense that Salzburg is "tame" — it is scarcely up to Frank Dunlop, McMaster's immediate predecessor as director, to do it — as he did in a Scottish newspaper interview this week. If the music programmes had continued their decline into banality when McMaster took over five years ago, there would now be no discriminating audience in Edinburgh to hear them and no self-respecting musicians to perform them.

Besides, there is nothing ignominiously tame about, say, an Evgeny Kissin recital in the Usher Hall running into 60 minutes' overtime with no fewer than ten encores, or — at a fraction of Salzburg ticket prices — the New York Philharmonic exciting the admiration of another capacity audience in the same hall on each of the two following days. If there was a disappointment in the orchestral concerts it was where, with Kurt Masur conducting, it was least expected. The New York Philharmonic has become an interestingly sensitive ensemble during the five years he has been artistic director. *Till Eulenspiegel*, on the other



EDINBURGH FESTIVAL

hand, remains the rogue it was always. So it was disconcerting to hear him presented in Strauss's tone poem at the beginning of the first concert as a respectable citizen with a conscience for long-term structural virtues, little spontaneity and not much humour.

In the same programme tucked away in St Cuthbert's Church, the 18-part series of Haydn string quartets continues. It is not the ideal acoustic for chamber music but the atmosphere is helpful, the ticket prices conspicuously reasonable and — in defiance of the festival's obscurantist policy elsewhere — the early evening light from the stained glass windows allows the audience to consult its comprehensive programme notes or even to read its scores.

Perhaps the major value of these concerts is that, for those who choose to attend a number of them, they gather their own momentum and their accumulation of specialist experience. The *Emperor Quartet* was far from emphatic in its interpretations of three of the Op 50 quartets but, in their context, they were revelatory performances. Concentration like that, on one small period, proved to be more effective than the more varied programme (from Opp 20, 33 and 77) from the *Quatuor Mosaiques* the following day: the earlier works tend to get overshadowed by the more mature inspirations.

As for the Evgeny Kissin piano recital in the Usher, whatever one's assessment of his sensitivity in Schumann or Beethoven, his technique and physical strength at the keyboard are beyond question.

And indeed, simplicity is the trademark of the *Orfeo* Mor-

ris and Hogwood bring to this year's Edinburgh Festival. From the cascading white drapes and unadorned columns of Adrienne Lobel's immaculate set to the purity and balance of the staging, a straightforward classical harmony invests every aspect of Morris's consummate vision. Nothing chaotic or emotionally fervent is allowed to disturb this cool and clean landscape, even when the "thousand pangs" of a grieving Orfeo would suggest otherwise.

Having a choreographer at the helm does solve *Orfeo*'s main problem: what to do when a lot is going on. Morris is adept at incorporat-

ing dance into the action, even where it is not called for, and is helped by his decision to place the chorus on risers on either side of the stage, thus freeing the main performing area for members of the Mark Morris Dance Group. This allows the singers to sing and the dancers to dance without any pretence at crossover.

The big dance numbers

demanded by the score are self-contained — the ballet of the Furies at the start of Act II, the ballet of the Blessed Spirits that greets Orfeo on his arrival in the Elysian Fields and full of a light-bodied, Isadora

fluency set within a courtly, formal patterning. The

consequences on Friday night

this is a production that will appeal more to dance fans than to music-lovers. The

balance between orchestra and singers was not quite right — can a chorus do its best from the sidelines? — and there were times when it was hard to hear the singers above the orchestra.

Chance's countertenor rang out strongly for the most part, particularly rich in the lower register. His Italian, though, was not as clear as it might be,

especially so when contrasted with the superb diction of Christine Brandeis's plucky and vocally lively Amor. As Euridice, Dana Hanchard has a voice not unlike Chance's and their big duet (staged like a minuet) was a high point, the shape of their singing meshing together beautifully.



Kurt Masur rehearses in Edinburgh with the New York Philharmonic no mere demonstration of technical quality

MUSIC IN LONDON: Passionate Prom; plus a 17th-century night out

Dazzled by northern lights

The Oslo Philharmonic has been playing at the Proms for nearly a decade, and during that time its annual visits have become one of the most keenly awaited events of the entire season. Regrettably, the man responsible for the orchestra's promotion to the top league, music director Mariss Jansons, was unable to share the acclaim this year — his doctors have advised him to rest until October — but under Manfred Honeck they gave of their superlative best in Sunday night's concert, to the delight of a capacity audience.

Honeck, who is due to take up a post at Norwegian National Opera, seemed entirely at home in Rossini's overture to *The Italian Girl in Algiers*. From the ear-straining pianissimo of the opening bars,

through the nimbly pointed rhythms of the Allegro, to the historically brassy conclusion, this was a thoroughly theatrical performance.

A group of five of Grieg's best-loved songs followed, with Barbara Bonney, silver-toned, exquisitely tender of phrase, the soprano soloist. *Solveig's Song* and the poignant *Lullaby*, both from *Peer Gynt*, were done with simple but heart-breaking eloquence, the orchestral accompaniment rendered with rare refinement. But it was *Spring* that drew from these players some of the most miraculously rapt string sonorities yet heard this season. The Prommers would not release them or Bonney for their well-deserved interval refreshment without an equal.

So ardently rhetorical was the discourse of the opening funeral march — every phrase invested with life-or-death conviction — that one feared the intensity could never be maintained. Yet it was, and with some intriguing events on the podium.

So ardently rhetorical was the discourse of the opening funeral march — every phrase invested with life-or-death conviction — that one feared the intensity could never be maintained. Yet it was, and with some intriguing events on the podium.

The tam-tam, already heard

Oslo PO/Honeck
Albert Hall/Radio 3

Were those the days, my friend?
Jiggy-Pokery
Queen Elizabeth Hall

Dryden's lament for that lost "heavenly harmony", followed by a chilling and totally silent period dance: the dancers heard no music, and their heavy costumes pinioned them to the earth.

Costume — or lack of it — was properly significant throughout the evening. *Lovely a-bleeding* was sung and danced in T-shirts and Doc Martens; the rhythm of *Lillibullero* was set up by the slow, heavy tread of four marchers coming down the aisles dressed in black gaberdines and

ly intense encore.

The theatrical mode

turned for Mahler's Fifth Symphony — not inappropriately, considering the psychological drama of the work and the operatic career of the composer. Indeed, something about the profile of Honeck, passionately engaged, arms fully outstretched, conjured the familiar, caricatured image of Mahler himself on the podium.

So ardently rhetorical was the discourse of the opening funeral march — every phrase invested with life-or-death conviction — that one feared the intensity could never be maintained. Yet it was, and with some intriguing events on the podium.

The tam-tam, already heard

BARRY MILLINGTON

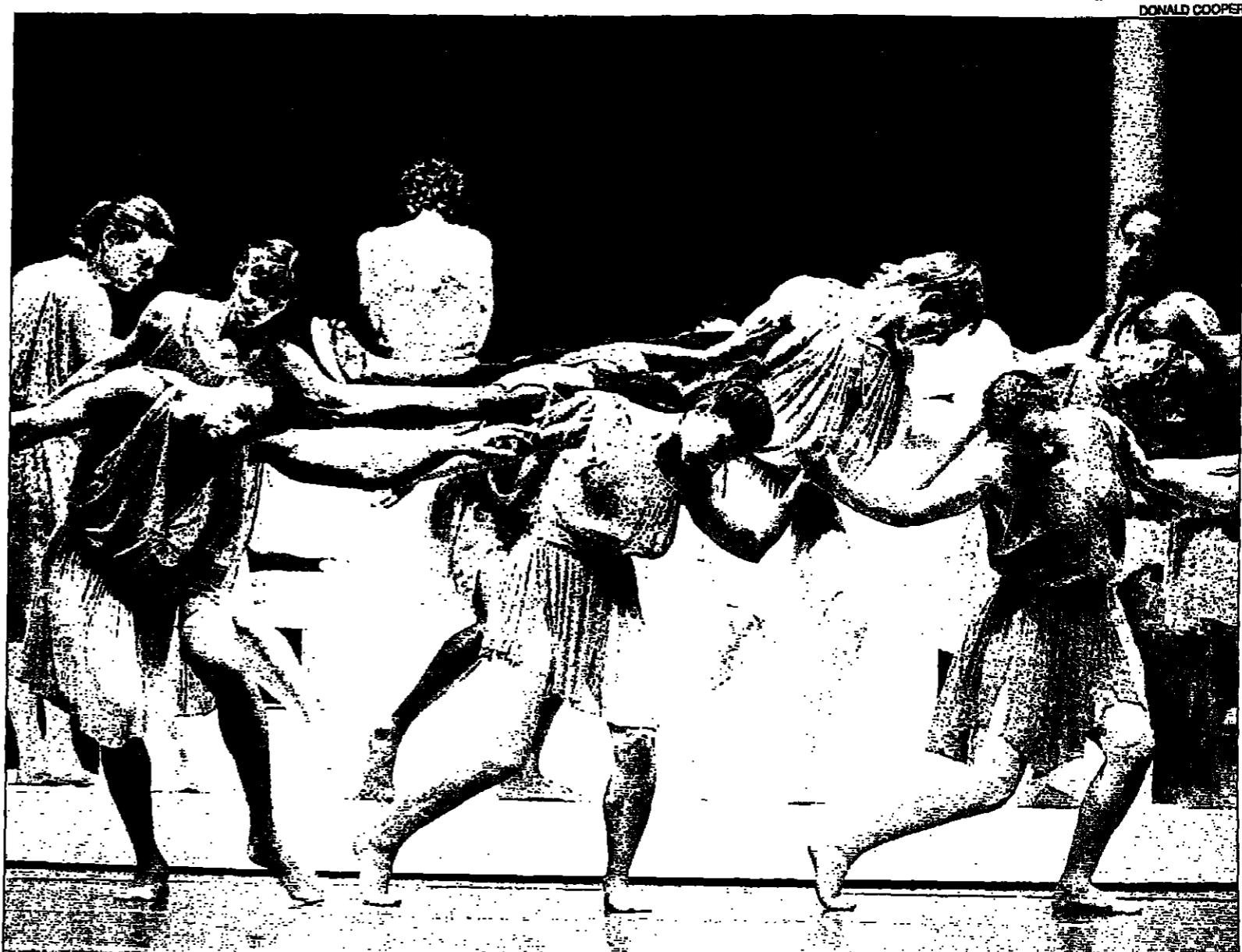
baclavas ("By Cheshire and St Patrick, da Nation's our own..."). Yes, it was ever so.

But MZT's game with costume obscured neither the skill of their footwork (a patterning of English notated dances and anti-masque dances), nor the skill of their musicians (a string band, two lutenists and Mhairi Lawson's eloquent soprano). Purcell's *Fairest Isle* at last found a context of irony and nostalgia often lacking in performances of the composer's great anniversary year. And one of his minutes found itself metamorphosing into a 1920s tango.

The great merging of the centuries, though, was saved for the show's final coup. The consort music of *Mad Tom* gradually overlapped and became submerged by the horrific dustbin-lid cacophony of Preston's *Pound*, a "charivari" of "rough music", expressing the rage of the populace, as London's eternal beggar Bedlam coexisted, for a brief moment inside and outside a South Bank of timeless spectators.

HILARY FINCH

ALYN SHIPTON



"One for dance fans more than music-lovers": members of the Mark Morris Dance Group mourn the death of Euridice in his production of Gluck's opera

Feet and voice in tune

Debra Craine sees opera share the stage with dance in *Orfeo ed Euridice* at the Festival Theatre

The choreographer Mark Morris is no stranger to opera. Neither is he a stranger to the sensibilities of 18th-century musical writing. As he has already shown with his dance adaptation of Handel's *L'Allegro*, he has a wonderful sympathy for the clarity and elegance of the period.

So Morris, who disdains anything artificial or florid in his dances, was already favourably disposed towards Gluck's prime directive — the "noble simplicity" of his great reform opera of 1762 — when the conductor Christopher Hogwood approached him to stage *Orfeo* with Hogwood's Boston-based period instrument ensemble, the Handel and Haydn Society.

And indeed, simplicity is the trademark of the *Orfeo* Mor-

ris and Hogwood bring to this year's Edinburgh Festival. From the cascading white drapes and unadorned columns of Adrienne Lobel's immaculate set to the purity and balance of the staging, a straightforward classical harmony invests every aspect of Morris's consummate vision.

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ing dance into the action, even where it is not called for, and is helped by his decision to place the chorus on risers on either side of the stage, thus freeing the main performing area for members of the Mark Morris Dance Group. This allows the singers to sing and the dancers to dance without any pretence at crossover.

The big dance numbers

demanded by the score are self-contained — the ballet of the Furies at the start of Act II, the ballet of the Blessed Spirits that greets Orfeo on his arrival in the Elysian Fields and full of a light-bodied, Isadora

fluency set within a courtly, formal patterning. The

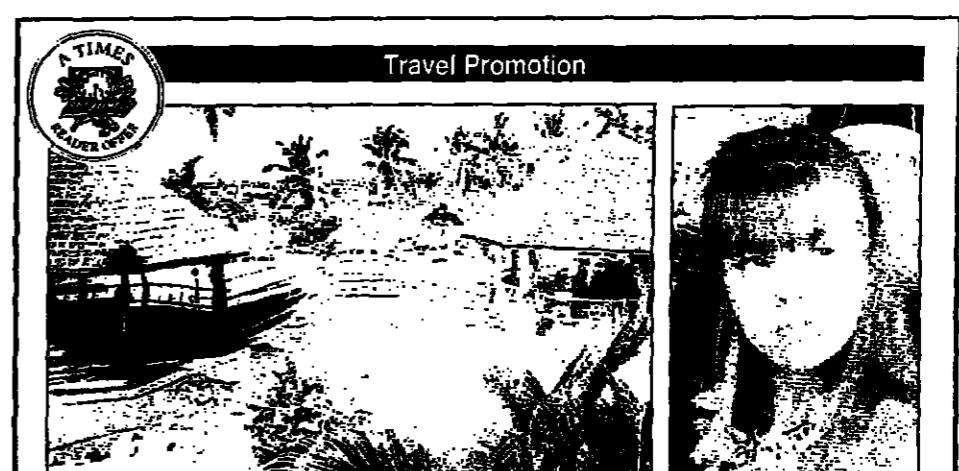
consequences on Friday night

this is a production that will appeal more to dance fans than to music-lovers. The

balance between orchestra and singers was not quite right — can a chorus do its best from the sidelines? — and there were times when it was hard to hear the singers above the orchestra.

Chance's countertenor rang out strongly for the most part, particularly rich in the lower register. His Italian, though, was not as clear as it might be,

especially so when contrasted with the superb diction of Christine Brandeis's plucky and vocally lively Amor. As Euridice, Dana Hanchard has a voice not unlike Chance's and their big duet (staged like a minuet) was a high point, the shape of their singing meshing together beautifully.



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In a marquee next to the Wye, the band went into *Raga Megha*, immediately raising all the old critical questions again. Without soloists of the calibre of Harriott to impose a dominant musical personality on each composition, the band placed more emphasis on the underlying conjunction of styles, and this quickly settled into a sequence of alternations between genres more than genuine fusion.

But as the band settled, saxophonist Anna Brooks came into her own, and some exhilarating solos also came from Mayer's son Jonathan on sitar and pianist Steve Tromans.

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WOULD
E?

4 Years' PQE

Nightmare that lasted 16 years

A prime aim of Lord Woolf's civil justice review is to cut the cost of going to court. However, if he had wanted to make a few savings closer to home, Lord Woolf could probably have spent a couple of hours talking to a mild-mannered former lecturer from east London and achieved exactly the same result. Patricia Eaton believes she could have helped the Master of the Rolls to find out the wrongs in the civil justice system that need to be changed: all from personal experience.

Miss Eaton has agreed to accept damages (thought to be more than £400,000) for breach of contract and negligence from the London Polytechnic Fund Authority (LPAF), which inherited the case from the Inner London Education Authority (ilea), her former employer. It has, however, taken her 16 years, nearly 50 court appearances, reams of paper and tens of thousands of pounds to win her case.

Geoffrey Bindman, the London solicitor who latterly advised Miss Eaton, calls it "a nightmare case". Lord Woolf might well agree. After a decade and a half of procedural wrangling, the case was finally listed for a six-week trial at the High Court — at which she would be representing herself. On the morning of the hearing, Miss Eaton and her supporters duly turned up, as did the defendants, their lawyers — including a QC, junior barrister and a legal team from the City firm Eversheds — witnesses for both sides, and trolleyloads of papers.

A few hours later, however, they were all trooping home. A settlement had been agreed at the door of the court.

After years of apparently believing that they could see her off, the defendants suddenly caved in and were prepared to pay what Mr Bindman calls a good settlement and to publish a 474-word apology in two national newspapers.

Despite her ultimate success, Miss Eaton characterises her experience as a paradigm of everything that is wrong with the legal system. What happened to her is only what can and does happen to other people — only more so, she believes.

Campaign adds up

THE image of lawyers cannot be all bad. Foote, Cone & Belding is an advertising agency famous for its ads for Molson beer. Orangina, Pledge furniture polish — and, er, having Lewis Silkin, the law firm, as its legal adviser. Not the type of glamorous client agencies like to boast about. Roger Alexander, Lewis Silkin's senior partner, is starring in 60-second radio ads to promote the agency (punchline: "FCB: Honest; decent; truthful; successful — and legal").

Rachel Broster, FCB's PR manager, describes the ads as "a tongue in cheek poke at the industry's tardiness in recognising the agency's renewed success in recent months". Did Roger ("Take One") Alexander charge his usual fee for being in the ad? No comment, says Ms Broster.

Likely future
BARRISTERS will be able to grill Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, for the first time at an open forum moderated by Vincent Hanna

Miss Eaton's brush with the legal system began in the early 1980s, when she won a defamation action against a fellow lecturer at Avery Hill College (now Greenwich University) in Eltham, southeast London. The defendant, Terry Horsley, declared himself bankrupt and still owes Miss Eaton £20,000 in unpaid legal costs. Her situation was compounded by her employer's refusal to investigate her complaints about her defamer instead of which, the college removed Miss Eaton from part of her professional duties. Later, after the college had merged with Thames Polytechnic, Miss Eaton lost her job while Mr Horsley continued to be employed by ilea. Miss Eaton has never worked since — and, at 62, is unlikely to work again. She has spent her years out of work, demanding redress for the abrupt end to a successful and much-loved teaching career.

As someone who has been at the sharp end of the court system, Miss Eaton is calling for almost exactly the same kinds of changes as proposed by Lord Woolf in his *New Landscape for Civil Justice*. He wants to make litigation less confrontational and to stop weaker parties being intimidated by those with deeper pockets. Miss Eaton is not alone in believing that the defendants in her case hoped she would be scared off.

Nick Raynsford, her MP, said of one letter sent by the defendant's solicitors, Jacques & Lewis (later taken over by Eversheds): "The tone is fairly offensive and intimidatory, and I take the gravest exception to their attitude towards my constituent and myself."

At one hearing the barrister referred to Miss Eaton as "this woman". When her then solicitor complained, the defence referred it to the Legal Aid Board, claiming this showed Miss Eaton's lawyers were wasting public money.

Peter Scales, LPFA executive chairman, insists, however, that the money was well spent — and adds that the quango has no plans to review its relationship with Eversheds or any other firm. He rejects



Patricia Eaton: she has personal experience of the failings of the civil justice system

suggestions that the case has cost the taxpayer about £1 million. "I don't know what all the costs were," he says. "All I can say to you is that our costs were nothing like that."

He refused to say how much the authority's legal bills had been. "I could tell you, but I don't want to." Eversheds declined to comment on any aspect of the case. But since the case's conclusion, it has been referred to the National Audit Office by Mr Raynsford, who has asked for an urgent investigation.

Miss Eaton insists that the case could have been settled on comparable terms at any time since 1990, saving both sides the expense of gearing up for trial. Not surprisingly, then, she applauds Lord Woolf's idea for introducing a plaintiff's offer to settle. Under this, a defendant who turned down a reasonable offer would have to pay punitive rates of interest

of up to 25 per cent in some cases.

Mr Bindman says that whatever Lord Woolf does, it will not be easy to encourage some lawyers to settle cases earlier. "Many solicitors are confrontational when they could do better for their client by a more conciliatory approach," he says. "After 35 years in practice, I find less willingness to compromise."

Mr Bindman blames the shift away from settlement on many law firms' increasing use of relatively junior solicitors to handle litigation. Such people do not have the experience or vision to negotiate, he claims, and, instead, blindly follow procedures, almost regardless of the ultimate cost to the client.

Rather than leaving tactics to the lawyers, clients need to be more closely involved in what is being done in their name, he says. That is why he singles out Lord Woolf's proposal to encourage the parties — rather than their lawyers — to sit around a table.

This, Miss Eaton says, is what she wanted to achieve all

along, resorting to court action only when it proved unsuccessful.

Overall, however, Mr Bindman is not optimistic that the reforms will prevent another Patricia Eaton being put through the legal mill for years on end. Something rather more radical may be needed, he believes. He adds: "I imagine we might achieve just as good a result if we got rid of all formalities and brought the parties together in front of an arbitrator who would decide the case on the spot."

HINNS AND OUTS

at the annual Bar conference on September 28.

Lord Irvine, who is giving the main speech at the one-day conference, is expected to use the platform to outline the policies likely to be adopted by Labour if it wins the next election. The conference has already attracted 300 participants and looks like being a sell-out.

Coincidentally, details are

from Blair Communications & Marketing (0171-722 9731).

Who will join whom? Ross Harper, president of the International Bar Association, said at the recent American Bar Association conference in Florida that lawyers have only months in which to respond to the threat that accountants could take over the legal profession.

Tony Girling, president of the Law Society, is taking a lead. Lawyers, he says, should accept the reality of mixed partnerships. And John Randall, the Law Society's head of professional standards, contends that the current ban on mixed partnerships prohibits outside investment in law firms. If law firms are to

compete, they must, he believes, be able to raise outside capital.

Fusion of firms?

AS competition between big accountancy firms and the top law firms reaches record levels of ferocity, leaders of the Law Society and the Bar are to use the opening of the legal year in October to launch a debate on whether to allow mixed partnerships between accountants and lawyers — or, if you can't beat 'em, join 'em.

But who will join whom? Ross Harper, president of the International Bar Association, said at the recent American Bar Association conference in Florida that lawyers have only months in which to respond to the threat that accountants could take over the legal profession.

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compete, they must, he believes, be able to raise outside capital.

FEES are still a touchy and secretive subject for most lawyers. But Shoosmiths & Harrison is publicising its annual performance. While some of the top City law firms still refuse to confirm their gross income, Shoosmiths has said that its own income is up from £24.6 million to £29.5 million and that 120 new staff have been recruited.

Just a quickie

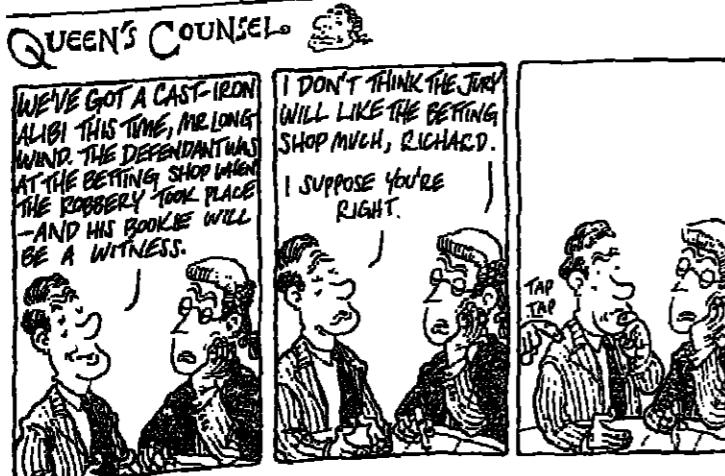
IN THE wake of Lord Woolf's proposals to speed up civil justice, lawyers are falling over themselves to prove how speedy they can be. Edge & Ellison recently acted for the Football League in resisting an action by Stevenage Borough Football Club to gain admission to the league. The case from writ issue to judgment took 12 weeks — half the time Lord Woolf envisages for disputes of up to £10,000.

John Autott, a partner, says: "This shows that with sufficient energy and good will on all sides, the present system can and does work."

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LAW

- HOCUS COCUS 36
- LAW REPORT 18

Easy access to the Bar — as there once was

The Bar's new *pro bono* unit, where barristers will take on "deserving cases" without charge, is seeking a relaxation of the rules so that members of the public may approach its barristers direct, without having to go through a solicitor first.

The logic behind this idea is not likely to be well understood by clients of the Bar who do have to pay their fees. It will be yet another anomaly in the Bar's rules.

At present a client abroad can contact a barrister in England and Wales directly, but clients in England and Wales cannot. He or she must first see a solicitor. Members of the Institution of Electrical Engineers can contact the Bar directly — one of the group of professions which, in recent years, has been granted the right of direct access — but not members of the Institute of Gas Engineers. And North Yorkshire Probation Service can deal with barristers direct — but not North Yorkshire Police. And barristers can be e-mailed from Cafala but not from Dover.

Rather than adding anomaly to anomaly, it would be simpler if the rule were scrapped completely and barristers were allowed to deal directly with any client they chose. Whenever any such suggestion is made, the Bar Council has a fit of the vapours and claims that no barrister wants to deal with the public directly and that any change would destroy the most ancient and sacred practices of English law. The first argument leads to the obvious question: why is a prohibition necessary if nobody wants to do it, anyway? Yet most barristers do seem to believe that the rule against direct access is so ancient that when the first barrister crawled out of the primeval slime he was followed (at a suitably respectful distance) by a solicitor handing out briefs. The reality is different.

For centuries, barristers were contacted by their clients directly as well as via solicitors, attorneys, proctors, scriveners etc. Barristers had free choice in the matter and in the case of *Bennett v Hale* reported in 1850 it was confirmed by Lord Campbell, the Lord Chief Justice, that there was no rule of law preventing a barrister receiving his instructions directly from a client. That judgment was in the Court of Queen's Bench, now part of the High Court. It has never been overruled.

During the time that most 19th-century barristers practised on a referral basis it was an entirely personal choice and some barristers did deal with clients directly. One barrister called Kennedy practised for a number of years in Birmingham advertising

his services in the local press as "dispensing with the unnecessary expense of a solicitor". In *Kennedy v Brown* (1862) it was confirmed that he was perfectly entitled to practise in this way.

However, *Kennedy v Brown* also confirmed that a barrister could not sue his client for his fees and that decision had the effect of discouraging most barristers from following Kennedy's example. If instructions came via a solicitor, the solicitor was professionally obliged to pay counsel's fees. The solicitor-barrister division as we understand it therefore arose not as a great decision of professional principle but simply as the safest way for barristers to ensure that they got paid. The client, of course, ended up paying two sets of fees.

Direct access did not, however, die out completely. The 1895 edition of *The National Encyclopaedia* noted that barristers were frequently instructed directly in criminal cases and cases in the County Court and the 1908 edition of *Halsbury's Laws* noted that there was no rule preventing barristers dealing with the public directly; it was merely a matter of personal etiquette.

Despite this clear legal opinion, the Attorney-General in 1888 decided that it was professionally improper for a barrister to undertake contentious work without a solicitor. In 1955 the Attorney-General extended this "rule" to cover non-contentious work as well. So the "rule" was not laid down by the judges or the profession but by a government minister. The Bar as a whole has never voted on the issue. The rule is legally questionable and has existed for only 40 years.

In *Bennett v Hale* Lord Campbell said that "the etiquette of the Bar is one thing; a practice which is to bind the world is another", and he was right. The Bar Council is entitled to want barristers to receive instructions via solicitors, but it is not entitled to make it a binding rule. Whether clients and the administration of justice are best served by barristers receiving instructions through solicitors is a matter on which there are valid differences of opinion.

Even if the overwhelming majority of barristers wants to receive instructions via solicitors, that is still no reason to make it compulsory. Barristers as individuals should be free to choose how they as individuals wish to practise their profession. Free choice, not restrictive practices, is the real tradition of the Bar.

• The author is a barrister in private practice.

NEIL ADDISON



judges or the profession but by a government minister. The Bar as a whole has never voted on the issue. The rule is legally questionable and has existed for only 40 years.

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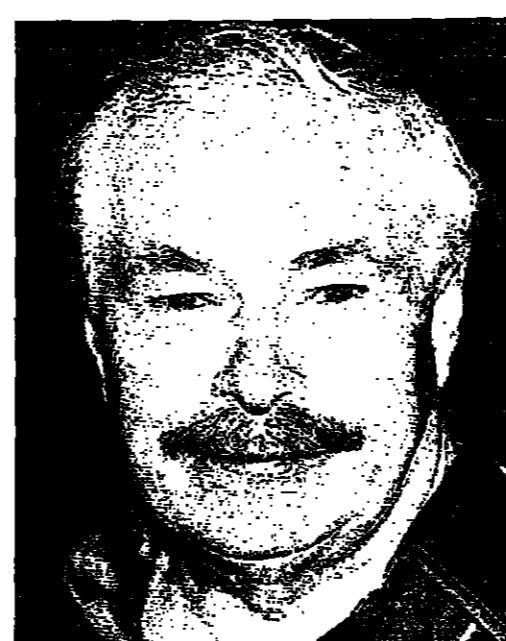
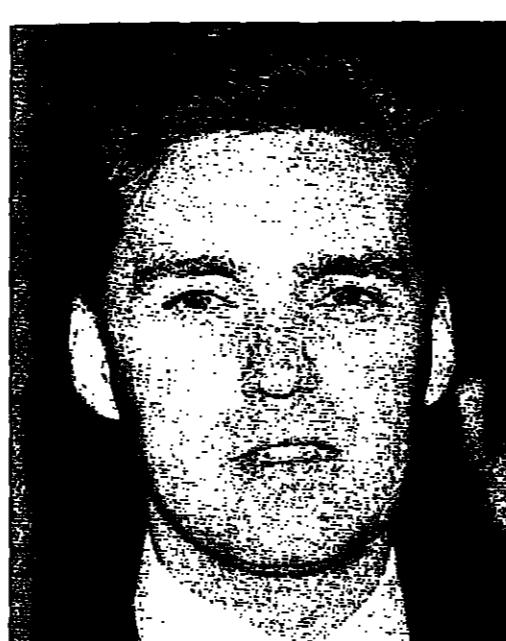
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Geoffrey Wildsmith, left, who, two and a half years after being seriously injured, began communicating about how he had been attacked, and MPs Alan Milburn and Doug Hoyle



Murder, however long it takes

This summer, 700 years after it was first the subject of legislation, the "year and a day" rule in English law was abolished by the Law Reform (Year and a Day Rule) Act. The new law comes into full effect this week.

The old rule stated that a person could not be convicted of murder where the death in question occurred more than a year and a day from the moment of the fatal injury. The rule also applied to manslaughter, abetting suicides, infanticides, causing death by careless driving when under the influence of drink, and aggravated vehicle taking causing death.

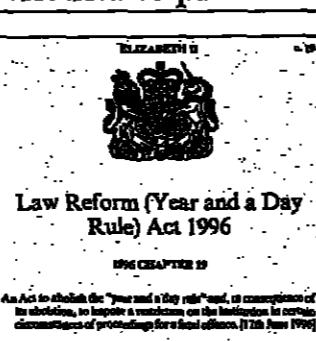
Michael Gibson was brutally beaten on the night of his twenty-first birthday by a thug in an unprovoked attack in Darlington in 1993. He suffered very serious injuries and brain damage, but was revived and went on living in a persistent vegetative state (PVS) for 16 months until he died of pneumonia. His attacker, David Clark, was not prosecuted for the homicide because of the anachronistic rule. Instead, he received a three-year jail sentence for causing grievous bodily harm, but was released after 18 months.

This caused widespread public concern, and Pat Gibson, Michael's mother, along with her MP, Alan Milburn, started a campaign to change the law. The new Act, a Private Member's Bill, sponsored by Doug Hoyle (the Labour MP for

Warrington North), passed through Parliament with remarkable speed and unanimity. It went through all the Commons' stages in less than two minutes.

The old rule was originally a procedural measure traceable to the *Statute of Gloucester* in 1278. Relatives of the victim who wanted to bring an action had to do so within a year. The Crown could also prosecute, but, as a matter of practice, it usually waited until the 366-day period had expired before a prosecution. Through judicial pronouncements, this procedural requirement was hardened into a substantive rule of law for all homicide actions. The "day" was added to show that a year must run after the day on which the injury was done.

One of the original reasons for the rule was evidential: testimony from witnesses about an incident more than a year old would be unreliable. There were, however, other justifications. In an age of primitive medical science, proving (or disproving) causation between an injury and a death many months or years later was virtually impossible, so a universal limit of "a year and a day" was adopted as a convenience. Additionally, there is the point that the person responsible for the initial injury should



not be indefinitely exposed to prosecution for homicide.

There are many cases similar to that of Mr Gibson's. Since the rule was made, medical science has developed significantly and it is now possible for severely injured people to be kept alive for a long time in PVS on life-support systems. There are about 1,200 people in PVS in the UK, a number of whom are victims of attacks.

Under British Medical Association guidelines for PVS cases, artificial feeding should not be withdrawn for at least a year, and, in the light of recent evidence that PVS sufferers can recover after a period longer than a year, the waiting period for withdrawal of artificial feeding might be extended. Recent guidelines from the

Royal College of Physicians are being reconsidered in the light of the case involving a businessman from the North of England. He is a patient whose condition was diagnosed seven years ago as in PVS yet in March he suddenly confounded doctors by becoming aware of his surroundings and communicating with hospital staff.

In the same week Geoffrey Wildsmith, a brain-damaged musician from Surrey, who was also in PVS, began communicating about how he had been attacked on a train two and a half years earlier. Police had originally assumed that part of his head had been sliced off in an accident when he put his head out the window. The number of PVS victims is likely to grow because more life-support systems will now be kept on for longer. Some sufferers, such as the businessman, and Mr Wildsmith, may recover but others will not and when their machines are turned off, murder prosecutions could now follow.

Abolition of the old rule also carries reverberations into the world of industrial deaths. When criminal gross negligence from an employer results in death, a manslaughter prosecution can follow. Every year there are about 450 workplace fatalities. There are,

though, about 10,000 annual deaths from chronic, work-related conditions such as asbestos and mesothelioma. Under the year and a day rule, such fatalities were outside the law of homicide, even when there was criminal culpability on the employer's part. Now, many manslaughter prosecutions could, theoretically, result from these deaths when a victim is recklessly injured at work, then takes more than a year to die.

Every year thousands of people die from injuries they suffered more than a year earlier in incidents resulting from criminal driving, from assaults, and from incidents or conditions received at work. Prosecutions for causing death by dangerous driving, murder, manslaughter and infanticide could rise sharply as a result of the new law.

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• Dr Slapper is principal lecturer in law at Staffordshire University.

So that's what it's all about

Donald Williams seeks English equivalents of Latin sayings

One does not have to be a professor or even a student of linguistics to know that our English language is a *charivari* of languages. That is one of its strengths. The cross-fertilisation has brought about its variety and wealth of expression. That part of the language used by lawyers — Legalese or Linglish — reflects the many sources of law that have become embedded, encrusted or barnacled in our legal system and the practice of law.

One only has to think of such odd-sounding expressions as "feme sole", "sequestration" or "garnishee" to realise the influence of the various legal systems that have been absorbed by English law (Scots lawyers have their own mixture producing such notions as "not proven" and the "sisting" of a judgment).

But has the time come to rid ourselves of what Pope described as "the dull lumber of the Latin store" and purge our English language of foreign maxims? The debate is perennial, most recently churning with a discussion on whether lawyers' wigs, tabs and robes are to be discarded. The higher the judicial level, the deeper the consideration of the problem.

The present Lord Slynn of Hadley, while presiding over the Employment Appeal Tribunal, gave an example of purging by suggesting that a modern rendition of *Ex turpi causa non oritur actio* should be "The dirty dog gets no dinner here". So a helpful glossary of Latin tags and sayings and their modern equivalents might read:

• *In pari delicto potior est defendant* could be rendered as "When choosing between two dirty dogs, the defendant has the upper hand (or paw)".

• *Vigilantibus non dormientibus aquitas subvenit* — "Equity does not help sleeping dogs".

• The author is a Chairman of Industrial Tribunals, London (North), and sat as a Recorder until last year.



NEVER
SMILE

END

RACING

Halling can take second International

BY JULIAN MUSCAT

POLISH though it is to be emphatic in a closely knif contest, Halling looks sure to take plenty of beating in the Juddmonte International Stakes at York today. The five-year-old has been peerless over ten furlongs on turf for the last 18 months, and there is no shred of evidence to suggest he is on the wane.

Halling, who will have the assistance of Lanfranco Dettori in the attempt to land successive renewals of the Eclipse and International Stakes, is one of five group one winners in the field of six. The exception is *Punishment*, trained by Clive Brittain, who

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: LIEFLING
(2.5 York)Next best: In Command
(2.05 York)

conjured one of the many shocks that litter the history of this race when saddling *Teriton* to victory five years ago. But Halling is not vulnerable to torrential downpours that alter the racing surface. Neither is he reliant on a strong pace, nor shackled by tactical demands.

The ground was fast when Halling won the International 12 months ago. However, he landed his second Eclipse victory on an easy surface last month. His strength is his versatility, as noted by Simon Crisford, racing manager to the Godolphin stable, which campaigns the horse.

YORK

THUNDERER

3.45 Easy Top
4.15 DOUBLE SPLENDOUR (rep)
4.45 Grey Shot
5.15 Demolition Man

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.35 WILANDER.

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Letting. 3.10 HALLING (rep).

GOING: GOOD
DRAW: 6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST2.05 DEPLOY ACROSS CONDITIONS STAKES
(2-Y-O: £13,400, 6f 214yo) (7 runners)

1. IN COMMAND 20 (F) M Al Maktoum & Hiles 8-0
2. REVOLTE 20 (F) M Al Maktoum & Hiles 8-0
3. SHADOW LEAD 20 (F) P Channon & Cunliffe 8-0
4. DRIVE ASSURED 6D (H) C British 8-10
5. GET THE POINT 11 (J) Begg R Hetherington 8-10
6. 55 OUT OF SIGHT 15 (D) Allen & McManus 8-10
7. 3 SYMONDS 11 (D) Maresca M Montalvo J Flanagan 8-10
BETTING: 6-4 In Command, 2-1 Revolte, 9-2 Shadow Lead, 6-1 Symonds (rep), 12-1 Out Of Sight, 14-1 Drive Assured, 3-1 Get The Point, 10-15 55 Out of Sight, 10-10 3 Symonds (rep)

1995: BIJOU D'INDE 8-10 Holland (11-4) M Johnson 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

good to firm, GET THE POINT (pointed At 9; cost 60,000) best. Shadow Lead (8, good to firm) REVOLTE (8, good to firm) SHADOW LEAD best. Symonds (11 in 5-runner) 6 to 10. Shadow Lead (10, 73rd of 13 to 10th) best. Symonds (11, good to firm). Selection: SHADOW LEAD

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10/3 Bijou D'Inde
6/1 Spectrum
9/1 Grape Tree Road
100/1 Punishment

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Quality menu draws gourmets to York

JULIAN MUSCAT



On a racecourse with a winning recipe

The month of August is significant in many walks of life. It embraces the Glorious Twelfth, summer holidays and a new football season. In racing, however, August is synonymous with the three-day Ebor meeting at York, which opens today on the Knavesmire.

No other fixture punctuates top-class sport with such a sense of informal decorum. Each day is programmed around a championship event, although such prizes pale against the Tote Ebor Handicap, a blood-and-thunder charge over 1½ miles.

Tell them York is the Royal Ascot of the north and you are firmly but politely informed that Royal Ascot is the York of the south. A more accurate summation can be gleaned from the identity of personnel. Until recently, Ascot was the domain of Col Sir Piers Bengough, KVO, OBE, At York, the man in charge is John Smith.

The Royal racecourse is back in favour after relaxing its militaristic grip. Further north, they have never strayed from a philosophy even older than the famous city walls. Smith, who cele-

brates his tenth season as manager/secretary and clerk of the course, deems that value for money was the prime concern long before his arrival. It is manifest in everything from corporate hospitality rates to the price of a pint.

"Two things ingrained in Yorkshire folk are a love of racing and the price of entertainment," Smith said. "Every racecourse executive can remember the heady days, six or seven years ago, when a lot of money was being spent on the corporate side. Our policy has never been to make a fortune from corporate tents. The fact that we didn't go

berserk meant that many people who came for the first time stayed loyal. Our attendances dropped in the harder times, but not significantly."

In many ways, the workings of York racecourse make the perfect model. It sits on public land, is owned by the city of York and run by the York Race Committee, a self-selecting non profit-making venture which ploughs money straight back into the racecourse. One might consider the five-man committee, with its old-school members, something of an anachronism. Yet it has nurtured and developed the racecourse with rare flair.

Smith's primary relationship with the committee is to implement policy but his influence extends far beyond following a set of guidelines.

"I do have a free rein. We are very much told to get on with the job." Asked why it works so effectively, he said: "I suppose it all comes down from the top. There is an excellent relationship among everyone working here. We are driven by the fact that we are all proud of our racecourse."

As much was evident from

a visit to the track last week.

An oasis of tranquillity, it

boasts well-tended lawns and

hundreds of overflowing

flower baskets, all sown within the grounds of an award-winning private nursery. It is a wonder they allow anyone through the gates.

Even the rigours of a major

building project, recently

completed, failed to dampen the spirit of racegoers. The Knavesmire Stand, in the Tattersalls enclosure, has been hailed as the finest of its kind, offering facilities the envy of Members' Enclosures elsewhere. It brought to fruition a seven-year overhaul of the grandstands. Now follows a period of consolidation, when the racecourse

must repay interest-free loans of £64 million by 2003.

Smith takes a break from preparing York racecourse for the three-day Ebor meeting, which begins on the Knavesmire this afternoon

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43. 144 4-0432 6000 TIMES 22 (C,D,F,G,6,8) (Mrs D Redford) 8 Hail 10-0

Acfield blueprint puts pressure on county die-hards

By ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE stated anxiety of the county clubs to help to improve their shop-window product, the national team, will come under searching examination at Lord's today when the recommendations of the Acfield working party are put before the summer meeting of the Test and County Cricket Board.

There is more at stake here than the energy and resources put into yet another working party: the issue is credibility. If the broad administration of the English game, in effect the county chairmen, reject these heavily researched proposals, as has

happened with depressing frequency in the past, the rest of the cricket world will justifiably hoot with derision.

It is not as if the report, presented by David Acfield and his four selected consultants, is especially revolutionary. Within a narrow brief, confined to the selection, management and coaching of England teams, it seeks chiefly to streamline by the creation, a more accurately re-creation, of an England committee.

This, however, takes certain counties into areas of past conflict: for it was only three years ago that an England committee, operating along similar lines to those that Acfield proposes now, was quietly

disbanded after the unceremonious forced departure of its chairman, Ted Dexter, whose ways, gradually securing a more realistic emphasis on England matters, did not suit those counties whose priorities began and ended with their own cloistered routines. What is more, Dexter was taking decisions without their approval, so he had to go. Will those counties exhibit a more enlightened, international view now that similar views are being put before them by a committee of their own making?

As a man with experience on both sides of this obstructive fence — he is also chairman of Essex — Acfield has taken the prudent step of sub-dividing his proposals. "I

would hate us to have the baby thrown out with the bathwater and, this way, if there is one item with which the delegates simply cannot agree, we do not risk having the entire project wasted," Acfield said.

Acfield is already aware of some opposition. Raymond Illingworth, seeing out the final weeks of his time as chairman of selectors, is irked at being marginalised during the process and dismisses the findings of the report as "a return to too many committees and red tape". But, after a trying summer personally, and one that has seen a general withdrawal from the principle of the supreme he so briefly became, he would, wouldn't he?

An awful lot of bunkum has been

talked about Acfield's committee structure, which in essence varies little from the existing groups apart from bringing them under a more appropriate and independent umbrella. Sensibly, his committee believes that all England appointments — including captain, coach and selectors — should henceforth be made by this specialist, nine-man committee rather than subjecting them to the full Board, which is at best unwieldy and at worst parochial.

The most significant threat to the report will be the instinctive opposition of the counties towards the recommendation that Illingworth's successor should have the authority to withdraw any player from a

county match if it was deemed to be in the best interests of an England team. Acfield cleverly tables this motion last, by which time he hopes the main planks of his report will have been adopted.

Item one is the institution of an England management committee. If this brings dissent, the remainder of the proposals can be forgotten. Item two is the constitution of the committee and then comes its powers of appointment and selection. Only then will the meeting discuss the contractual arrangements of officers — including a salary for the chairman of selectors — and the thorny matter of the national interest taking due priority over county cricket.

One thing is for sure. If the report is not adopted, with an acknowledgement that the changed profile of the international game creates rewards through the structure, then the widespread funding awards for junior cricket, announced yesterday by the Cricket Foundation, will be short-lived.

The foundation was able to devote £2.2 million, divided judiciously among all 38 first-class and Minor Counties, towards developing young cricketers of better quality. The source of the money was television income, which is entirely dependent upon the successful presentation of Test and international cricket. Perhaps it was a timely prompt.

CRICKET

Pace attack waste no time in taking Derbyshire to top

By MICHAEL HENDERSON

DERBY (final day of four): Derbyshire (23pts) bt Nottinghamshire (7) by 303 runs

WJTHA knick-knack-paddy-whack, Derbyshire went top of the championship. Devon Malcolm and Phillip DeFreitas needed only 50 minutes yesterday morning to complete this neighbourly rout, and the players now have nine days off — a "three-quarter-term" of sorts — to prepare for the final phase of a season that could yet turn out to be glorious.

They have won the championship just once, in 1936, but Dean Jones will tell his players that, having won their past three matches and six of the past eight, there is no earthly reason why they cannot surprise everybody, and win it again. Before he left for a brief family holiday in Spain, he spelt out his hopes in plain language. "You must forget about what you have done, and concentrate on what you can do," he said. "Now is the time to do it."

This was the second time this season that Derbyshire have won by more than 300 runs, and with two of their remaining four matches at Derby, and another at Chesterfield, they could not ask for more helpful circumstances. Moreover, they can welcome back their promising young swing bowler, Andrew Harris, when Dominic Cork goes off to play for England in the Texaco Trophy one-day match.

The measure of their success in this match can partly be gauged by Cork's inability to take a wicket. Indeed, he was not even required to bowl in the second innings, so

successful were Malcolm, who took five wickets for the sixth time this year, and DeFreitas, whose nine wickets represented his best effort for the county.

England may feel they can do without Malcolm; to Derbyshire he is indispensable in his present form. He has taken 68 first-class wickets, 38 of them in the past five games, and has earned the respect of Jones. "He has a lot of pride," the captain said. "It takes

"Everybody has played a part in winning games for us, which is a sign of a good team," Jones said. The Victorian has played a signal part himself, geeing up the dressing-room and finding qualities in DeFreitas, his vice-captain, that were not obvious to others. His new nickname, apparently, is Freud (for his new-found insights), although interpreting the dreams of men such as Krikken, the noisy wicketkeeper, would surely have puzzled even the Vienna doctor.

Krikken, everybody agrees, is keeping well enough to warrant an official look but, Derbyshire being an "unashamed" club, their players are not scrutinised as conscientiously as they might be. Adams, who has made five centuries this season, and Harris should certainly be going on the A tour to Australia this winter, points they will be keen to underline in the games that remain.

The first is against Worcestershire at the glorious Queen's Park ground in Chesterfield, where the pitch, once a notorious flier, is not as fast as it used to be. They then play Somerset at Taunton before finishing their season at home to Warwickshire and, as they would like to, Durham. The weather, Jones said, was the key.

Nottinghamshire, resuming on 72 for four yesterday, with Pollard injured after being battered by Malcolm on Saturday night, went down to their fifth successive defeat without much of a fight. They bowled well on the first day, but overall their cricket lacks colour and spirit.

A varying stages in this extraordinary day's cricket, no such exciting climax appeared likely. Both teams were cagey to start with and Tufnell, bowling his left-arm slows into the rough outside

courage to come back like he has." This, an allusion to the war of words between Malcolm and Raymond Illingworth.

"I am not getting carried away," Jones said. "A lot of the guys are feeling tired and I hope that when we meet up again they will have recharged their batteries. I'm off to Spain. Let [Stillman, the coach] go to Greece for a few days and some of the others are having time off. I hope we will be nice and fresh for the last 25 days of the season."

Waqar fully tuned up for Oval Test

By PAT GIBSON

CHELMFORD (final day of three): The Pakistanis beat Essex by 271 runs

IT WAS easy to tell that Mark Hott is no longer in the England side when he walked down the pitch to shake the hand of Waqar Younis and congratulate him on the devastating yorker which had sent his middle stump crashing several yards towards the wicketkeeper.

The England players who will have to face Waqar later this week would not have been so diverted by his return to his awesome best just in time for the final Test on the fastest pitch in the country.

It could be, of course, that they have heard that the powers that be are planning to dose some of Waqar's fire by slowing it down, although, in that case, they would have been equally disturbed by the sight of Saqlain Mushtaq taking his haul to 29 wickets in his past four games. At 19 he can already claim to be the best off spinner in the world.

"This was the best thing that could have happened to us," Yawar Saeed, the urbane Pakistan manager, said happily after four centuries, by Inzamam-ul-Haq. Asif Mujtaba, Saad Anwar and Salmi Malik, and nine wickets apiece from Waqar and Saqlain had overcome Essex's feeble resistance, further weakened yesterday by the



Lathwell hooks a ball from Wren on his way to 81 at Canterbury yesterday

Solanki strikes vital blows

By JACK BAILEY

LORD'S (final day of four): Middlesex (9pts) drew with Worcestershire (11)

AFTER much careful manoeuvring and a declaration by Tom Moody which left Middlesex to score 251 from 49 overs, Phil Tufnell, batting hero of the first innings, found himself trudging out to the middle with two balls to face, ten runs to win and nine wickets down.

It was too tall an order even for our Boy's Own character, but with the last two balls successfully negotiated, at least Worcestershire were denied.

A varying stages in this extraordinary day's cricket, no such exciting climax appeared likely. Both teams were cagey to start with and Tufnell, bowling his left-arm slows into the rough outside

the right hander's leg stump, was economical but seldom penetrating.

With Worcestershire resuming at 89 for four and a lot resting on his shoulders, Tim Curtis was not to be tempted into indiscretion as he saw them out of immediate danger and within sight of a century and within sight of a century.

With Tufnell and Weekes bowling almost throughout, Middlesex shot through their overs so fast that Moody was left with enough elbow room to set a target.

No praise could be too high for Curtis, whose century, spread over nearly 5½ hours, had kept Worcestershire's head above water. Though restricted by Tufnell, he found Weekes great to his liking and, with bright little innings from Solanki and Lampitt in support, saw to it that his team regained the initiative.

Solanki, with his off breaks, also played an important part in the final act. But first the stage was captured by Pooley and Weekes. The two left-handers played with such gusto that they put on exactly 100 for the first Middlesex wicket at four runs an over.

Only 151 runs to win, 23 overs left and a Middlesex line-up adept at chasing runs. The odds were in their favour.

After Weekes had been bowled by Hick, however, Solanki set out on the path which was to give him his career-best return of five for 69. He bowled Rampakash and Gattting with successive balls, which proved crucial moments in the game.

For, although Pooley went on to make 87 from 105 balls, and Brown and Johnson laid about them — Johnson's 28 came from 14 balls with three sixes — Middlesex were always tugging against the leash.

Solanki's five wickets came in his second spell. Headley had

bottom edge and the wicketkeeper's left pad to leg slip. It was a curious dismissal. The rest were more conventional, not least when Harden was caught at silly point off Long's little-used off spin.

McCague's return after tea was the salient moment. If any bowler could work up some pace on this bland pitch, it was him. His first ball, however, looked to be a loosener. Parsons, checking his shot, was well held at mid-on by a diving Ward. Next, Turner was bowled out before a ball of full length. Kerr had his middle stump taken out and Rose was yorked. McCague's second spell was one of four for 14. Kent's crowd acknowledged him as rapturously as did Walker, who was on the field throughout the match. They know that their remaining fixtures are less onerous than those of Derbyshire.

For Lathwell, decent form has been elusive. He has made just one century this season, and that was not in the championship. He was not at his free-scoring best here — he has not been since he was soured by playing Test cricket against Australia — but he was quick to make the most of anything short or overpitched.

Nobody stayed with him for long, even though the pitch gave as little assistance to any bowler as it had over the first three days. This square really is much in need of some additional pace. The batsmen had to be prised out — or at least those who did not give their wickets away. On the hottest day of the year, no bowler ran in more purposefully than McCague.

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McCague keeps Kent's title chase on course

By IVO TENNANT

CANTERBURY (final day of four): Kent (21pts) beat Somerset (5) by 62 runs

Trescothick caught at first slip in his opening over and, in the last before tea, bowled Lathwell and had Lee leg before first ball with an intelligent yorker. This was when the match was effectively won, for the Australian all-rounder had shown the previous afternoon the kind of form that he has been in all season.

Lathwell, who faced 180 balls and struck 14 fours, might well have been disconcerted by his previous ball, a short one that followed him. Headley is capable of coming up with as sharp a bouncer as anybody. His next ball was on or around off stump and Lathwell, evidently and mistakenly, reckoned it would bounce sufficiently to clear it.

Kent did have some fortune. Bowler, having made 32 in his obdurate way, aimed a cut at Hooper which went, via the

Warwickshire kept alive their hopes of retaining the championship with a two-wicket victory over Glamorgan at Edgbaston. Needing only 136 for their sixth win of the season, they slumped to 113 for eight before Dougie Brown (26 not out) and Ashley Giles (10 not out) put on 23 in six, nerve-racking overs.

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live view
with rules

THE TIMES TUESDAY AUGUST 20 1996

RUGBY

Struggling Widnes lose three more men to Waterloo

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

BUILDING work on a new stadium at Naughton Park is due to start soon. The Widnes team, meanwhile, is rapidly being dismantled by speculators and asset-stripers from rugby union. Waterloo have signed Tony Thorniley, Jason Green and David Ruane, bringing the number of full and part-time defectors from Widnes to nine.

Although less celebrated than Vaiga Tuigamala's short-term switch from Wigan to Wasps yesterday, the other moves underline the threat from union. Rather than nibbling away at the edges, union has taken a huge bite out of Widnes. With almost daily defections, agents who milked the contract system in league **their** players are now sucking the game's lifeblood by offering them to the highest bidders in union.

The agents, however, are just part of the problem. Besides, they are only doing

what comes naturally. Thorniley, Green and Ruane were out of contract at Widnes, a club in financial turmoil for several years now. The grass at Waterloo undoubtedly looked greener. Many league players and union clubs are incompatible; it is the damage they do in the meantime.

Jim Mills, the Widnes chairman, is in no doubt where the blame lies. "We've opened the door to union by switching to summer, with too long an off-season," he said. Winter, for Rochdale, began with their last home match two weeks ago. January and the Challenge Cup is an awfully long way away.

The Super League has delivered excellence, probable new champions in St Helens and a transformation by Bradford on and off the field that must serve as a role model. Summer has also banished postponements and the end-of-season

log jam, but the *raison d'être* for realignment of the season with that in Australia — a series of lucrative world play-offs — disappeared before the season started.

The appeal process against Super League's ban in Australia drags on. Part of the fallout is the temporary move by Henry Paul, from Wigan to Bath, that could eventually become a permanent one. Paul is disillusioned by Wigan's inability to defend their world club championship crown and by the political warfare in league, so much so that he has put Bath ahead of representing New Zealand in the three-match autumn series against Great Britain.

Wigan could have done with the world play-offs. They let Martin Offiah go to London Broncos and Bedford, Scott Quinell to Richmond and Shen Tatupu to Northampton. As well as releasing Tuigamala and Paul, they are to loan Gary Connolly to Harlequins, who are also interested in the younger Paul brother, Robbie, at Bradford.

The floodgates are open, to the detriment of the Super League in particular and rugby league in general. The year-round player in both codes has been invented, yet the athlete who can perform non-stop has yet to be born. When Wigan recover their charges next January, what state will they be in?

The *nouveau riche* image of union is confined to a handful of clubs — rich pickings for leading league players and their agents — but, lower down the order, financial insecurity, impossible loans and feelings of uncertainty mirror the very problems that continue to beset league after 10 years of professionalism.

As to the drip feed of £87 million from the new Super League, money is not yet reaching the parts that it should. Mismanagement at club level, where all the money is being directed, still thrives. The Rugby Football League proudly announced yesterday the scraping together of a £60,000 cheque for the Super League winners next weekend. Not that it interested poor Widnes.

Although they retain, and will develop, their ground at Sudbury as a centre of excellence, Wasps will play their first home league game at Loftus Road on Sunday, September 8. The match with Saracens will be the first of three significant Sunday

dates, since they intend to play Leicester at the football stadium on September 22 and Cardiff in the Heineken Cup on October 13.

It is the belief of Chris Wright, chairman of the new Loftus Road plc, that such games could attract between 9,000 and 10,000, which should create an atmosphere in which such players as Lawrence Dallaglio, Damien Cronin and Tuigamala can thrive. Wright, who has purchased Queens Park Rangers and Wasps for some £13 million, said: "If rugby becomes the growth sport it should become and needs to become to justify its existence as a professional sport, you still do not know what its needs may be in the future, and we can cope with that."

Wasps hope to announce, within the next ten days, a three-year sponsorship with a multinational company worth £1 million.

Tuigamala joins as autumn Wasp

BY DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

WHEN Wasps open the home season next month, they will do so in new surroundings, with new money and — subject, as they always say, to form and fitness — the comfortably solid presence in their ranks of Vaiga Tuigamala, whose short-term return to rugby union was confirmed yesterday.

Like Henry Paul, his rugby league colleague at Wigan, Tuigamala has agreed to play for Wasps from September until January. The former All Black wing has yet to resolve problems over a work permit, but his new club anticipate him playing around 20 games before he returns to Wigan.

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GOLF: TRIUMPH IN SOLHEIM CUP WOULD COMPLETE VICTORY SET

Europe set sights on clean sweep

BY PATRICIA DAVIES

AT THE Westar British Women's Open at Woburn last week, they sold four tickets for the Solheim Cup match — the Ryder Cup with lipstick, as a Welsh wag once described it — at St Pierre in Chepstow, from September 20 to 22. Come the three days of competition, however, there should be more than just a handful of spectators for what is now one of the most important team events in British and European golf.

Hyperbole? Of course, but justified, for Europe's women have it in their grips to complete a unique quartet to ensure that golf's four premier team trophies are on this side of the Atlantic, together, for the first time. Great Britain and Ireland's amateurs have already won the Walker Cup and the Curtis Cup. Europe won the Ryder Cup and, next month, the Americans will be doing their utmost to prevent the Solheim Cup, the baby of the quartet, from spending more than a few days on display in Wales.

The Europeans, unfortunately, have already conceded to the opposition, the most successful golfing nation on earth, everything but home advantage. There are more players, with 12-a-side instead of ten, and more matches, with four fourballs and four foursomes on the first two days and 12 singles on the last day.

The leading three players in the world, however, are European. Annika Sorenstam, the US Women's Open champion, and Laura Davies, who has won two major championships this season, have been engaged in a game of musical rankings at the top of the Ping leaderboard, taking it in turns to be No 1, and Liseotte Neumann, who has won three tournaments in America this year, is No 3.

They will all be in the side to be announced after the Compaq Open, in Sweden, a week on Sunday. Walker is allowed five wild cards and Neumann will probably have

to be one, since she is eighteenth on the Solheim Cup list and there are only two events remaining, the Compaq and the Trygg Hansa Open, near Stockholm, this week.

Two wins might take Neumann into the top seven on the Solheim Cup list, who make the team as of right. The present top four — Marie-Laure de Lorenzi, Davies, Lisa Hackney, a Cup newcomer,



Sorenstam: lead role

and Alison Nicholas — are certainly. Trish Johnson, Lora Fairclough and Sorenstam, all Solheim Cup players already, occupy the other automatic spots at present, but with 180 points for a win, the situation is fluid.

Joanne Morley, Patricia Meunier Lebouc, Karina Orum, Sophie Gustafson, Julie Forbes and Helen Alfredsson are others who could still earn a place.

The Americans, whose captain, Judy Rankin, is limited to two choices, look more settled. They name their side after the tournament in Dayton, Ohio, this week and there are 30 points for the winner.

Dottie Pepper, Meg Mallon, Kelly Robbins, Michelle McGann, Jane Geddes, Party Sheehan, Rosie Jones, Pat Bradley and Val Skinner all look safe. Betsy King, in tenth spot, is not far ahead of Beth Daniel and Emilee Klein, the new Westar Women's British Open champion, who has shot into the reckoning with two recent wins.

Declarer has nine tricks on top. Can he avoid the diamond finesse? Try not to look at the East-West hands until you have decided on your play.

The clue is to recognise the significance of dummy's heart holding. After the lead of the ace of hearts, the jack, ten and nine will eventually produce a trick against the king and queen.

All that is necessary is to ruff the first trick high (thus preserving the entries to dummy) and lead a high spade to dummy's ace; you then lead the jack of hearts, discarding a club from hand. West wins and, say, he switches to a club.

Sheehan discarded a club from his hand at trick one — equally good — and then played as described above.

Sheehan, from the Saalbach-Pollmacher, Leipzig 1861, has the lead. The white king is in the corner, the black king is in the middle. White has a lead in development and has managed to dislodge the black king. It is therefore not surprising that he finds a route to a quick checkmate. Can you see it?



Jheni Osman moves into the net during her 6-3, 6-0 first-round victory over Charlotte Smith yesterday

Latimer follows eminent line

Alix Ramsay on a teenager out to make her name at the national junior championships

IT is summertime in Nottingham, then it is time to search for tennis talent. Every year the town plays host to around 300 hopeful players, from under-14s to under-18s, all determined to make their mark in the sport's history books. A British junior title would put their name up there alongside such notables as David Lloyd, Buster Mottram, Tim Henman, Ann Jones, Christine Truman, Sue Barker and Jo Durie.

The courts of the City of Nottingham Tennis Centre are filled with the young and talented, the young and determined and the just plain young. Watched by parents who have put time and money into their prodigies' progress, it can be a tense week. As the scent of sun tan lotion wafts across the sparsely populated stands, coaches and parents seem devastated by defeat, even if some players fail to set it as a matter of life and death.

Many of the leading juniors have decided not to play in Nottingham, choosing to play in their trade on the satellite circuit, where there are world-ranking points at stake, or in international junior events, where the level of competition is higher. Even at under-14 level, some of the top names have stayed away. In world terms, a British title amounts to little, but a couple of rounds won at a satellite tournament helps the players to inch up the career ladder and earn a few bob in the bargain.

In the absence of the top names, Louise Latimer, from Sutton Coldfield, has come to Nottingham to represent the United States. She has been going to Nottingham for the past four years and her best result was in reaching the quarter-finals last year. Now 18, she has been playing full-time for two years, working with Shirley Brasher in London. Her ambitions are simple and realistic. "I would like to make a living out of tennis and make a name for myself if I can," she said, having won her first-round match with ease, defeating the 830 mark and she would

like to raise that to 500 by the end of the year. However, most of those who have put their name on the world tennis map had already done so by the time they were 18. Stern Graf was just turning 19 midway through 1988, the year of her grand slam. The rest of the women's top ten had already made their mark before they were allowed to vote. As for the likes of Martina Hingis, she is only 15 and has gone down in the record books as the youngest winner of a Wimbledon title, the women's doubles.

Her travels have taken her from South America and Australia, where she played in towns so small there were not even sheep to swell the numbers. "It's OK if you like travelling and you don't mind the endless hotel rooms," she said.

She had gone to Nottingham because "I didn't have anything else to do and I would like to be able to say I have won a national title". Yet, back in the real world, she knows she faces a struggle. Her world ranking is around the 830 mark and she would

like to raise that to 500 by the end of the year. However, most of those who have put their name on the world tennis map had already done so by the time they were 18. Stern Graf was just turning 19 midway through 1988, the year of her grand slam. The rest of the women's top ten had already made their mark before they were allowed to vote. As for the likes of Martina Hingis, she is only 15 and has gone down in the record books as the youngest winner of a Wimbledon title, the women's doubles.

However, Graf was philosophical about the defeat. "She got a really good start over the first ten metres and I couldn't catch her," she said. "It is all part of learning to be a champion. I have to learn to forget the good races and the bad and just concentrate on the next race."

Meanwhile, the rest of the athletes have been starting a small revolution in Atlanta. Having spent the first few days waiting in vain for buses that never arrived, they have discovered that a paltry \$1 will buy them a season ticket on the public transport system. Now Atlanta's underground stations are awash with Paralympians getting to and from competition venues under their own steam but still at the top of the domestic tree, there is room for Latimer and her like at Nottingham, to make a living and something of a name for themselves — even if it is only in Britain.

Results, page 41

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

BY ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

Today's hand was reported as being played by the Norwegian, John Lakeberg, Yogi Berra (manager of the New York Yankees and famous for his creative idioms) once remarked of a baseball disaster that it was "deja vu all over again". I felt a frisson of that feeling on this deal, but maybe I'm being cynical.

Dealer West

Game all

♦A83

♦J1096

♦S42

♦S74

♦4

♦AKQ82

♦K109

♦J962

♦KQJ10872

♦A93

♦A53

W N E S

1H 2H 4S

All Pass Pass

Contract: Four spades by South. Lead: Ace of hearts

Declarer has nine tricks on top. Can he avoid the diamond finesse? Try not to look at the East-West hands until you have decided on your play.

The clue is to recognise the significance of dummy's heart holding. After the lead of the ace of hearts, the jack, ten and nine will eventually produce a trick against the king and queen.

Notice that if you had lazily ruffed the first heart low, you would no longer have had three entries to dummy.

Sheehan discarded a club from his hand at trick one —

equally good — and then played as described above.

In the following game from this year's British Championship, Black gains the huge material advantage of two queens against one, but fails to spot that he must sacrifice one back to make a draw.

White: Tim Wall

Black: Daniel Bisby

British Championship, Nottingham, August 1996

Trompovsky Attack

Dealer West

Game all

♦A83

♦J1096

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FOOTBALL

Ball weighs up options to bolster City squad

By DAVID MADDOCK

ALAN BALL, the Manchester City manager, will decide today whether to offer a contract to Elvis Brajkovic. The Croatian has been on trial at Maine Road and, while there is money available to buy new players, Ball said, there is no great haste to do so.

Brajkovic, a member of the Croatian squad for the European championships, has been on trial for the past week, and is available on a free transfer. Ball watched him in a training match last night and must arrive at a decision before the end of the week.

The manager wondered out loud whether the defender will be suited to the demands of English football. He confessed, however, a need to bring in new players of a certain quality to ensure that

depth in my squad, and we must be strong," he said. "In the Premiership, there were only a couple of teams that played differently, but in the first, there are only maybe five or six teams who will knock it about. The rest will come and challenge us, and we must be prepared for a fight."

Leeds United, already suffering injury problems just one match into the new season, have signed Mark Hateley, the Queens Park Rangers centre forward, on a month's loan. Hateley will go straight into the team for the visit of Sheffield Wednesday tonight.

Leeds have Tony Yeboah sidelined for two months with a knee problem and Brian Deane has joined him in the physiotherapist's room after sustaining thigh and knee injuries against Derby County on Saturday.

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, has opted for Hateley's experience. "Mark will want to show he can still do it in the Premiership, and I'm sure he has the guile and experience to get on well with fan Rush," he said.

Tim Sherwood, the Blackburn Rovers captain, has been offered a three-year extension to his contract with the Lancashire club. Sherwood is the subject of a £4 million offer from Arsenal, and had talks with Robert Coar, the club chairman, yesterday. Sherwood indicated that he would agree to the new deal, keeping him at the club for the next five years, so long as he joins the top earners at the club.

Meanwhile, Jason Wilcox, the Blackburn winger, only returned to action towards the end of last season, has undergone another knee operation. This latest operation was simply to remove a piece of gristle from his knee and it looks nothing too serious," Ray Harford, the Blackburn manager, said. "He could be back playing in a couple of weeks."

Steve Sedley, Ipswich Town's record signing, has rejected a new contract with the first division club. Sedley, 27, who joined Ipswich for £1 million from Tottenham Hotspur two years ago, is holding out for a better deal.

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Yorkshire ways with criminals and sheep

Having championed *Out of the Blue* (BBC1) in its first series, I now feel curiously defensive when people criticise the second. Derivative? Childish? Overly aggressive? Oh yeah? Well, just take off those glasses and say that. *Out of the Blue* may fancy itself a bit much, but it is still the best of the *Cracker* contenders: it's sharp and well acted and brilliantly moody, with actors cast principally for the quality of their frowns. The only aspect of the series I can't abide is the long, self-conscious NYPD opening shot each week when the camera dodges around a busy crime scene, eavesdropping momentarily on each conversation in turn, like a dog spoilt for lamp-posts.

"So you were just sitting on the wall, Mr Dumpy?" says beautiful Becky (a police car light flashing behind her curly auburn hair). A siren rings out: the camera pans sharply. "Anyone got it in for

Dumpy round here? Smashed a lot, was he?" barks black Bruce, briefly in shot. A witness shakes his head: "He was a bit full of himself." These king's horses, how are they supposed to help? asks timid Tony, wincing as he tries to lift his foot free of egg-white. "Can't make an omelette any other way," sneers mad Marty, opening a car door and pulling his coat around his legs. "Does nobody want this?" asks light-fingered Lew, dropping vital teaspoon evidence in his pocket, just as the camera piroquets on the spot and finally faints from over-excitement.

Last night's story involved a male rape on a council estate, and arguably overreached itself — the final explanation for the rape was bizarre and unconvincing: the rape victim was too thinly sketched. Cruised by his ordeal, he burnt his furniture in the front garden and stripped the walls. Meanwhile DS

Tony (or was it Ron?) got upset. When the rape victim is a lassie, he said, he could assure her of his protection, but with a man — what could he say to a man?

DI Eric listened sympathetically, of course, because he is the most understanding boss in the world. But this protect-the-fascist stuff was eyewash. DI Eric is too soft by half, if you ask me. His desk must be littered with sick notes. "Marty could not attend the office today, he woke up with snuffles, signed Marty's Mum."

Elsewhere on telly last night, *Germaine Greer imagined she was Prime Minister for Channel 4 (If I Were Prime Minister)*, and took the task too seriously in my view. In this well-advertised piece, she proposed all sorts of radical policies, including the branding of criminals instead of their incarceration and a state wage for allotment-owners. More

radically still, she would remove men from the family, and let them serve a residual defence role — rather like the protect-the-lascivious *in Out of the Blue*.

This would let the men off the hook (they don't like children really), and free the women to have a nice time together with their kids. Having glimpsed men around infants (in public parks), Greer had concluded they were not

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

fit for fatherhood in any case. I had not seen *If I Were Prime Minister* before and was confused by the sweeping nature of these policies, and also the quasi-serious manner in which they were discussed. I mean, there's no point having absolute power, obviously, if all you can think of is abolishing pop socks. But on the other hand, if the satirical essayist is allowing her reforming megalomania free rein, why does she have to test her theories against academics and professionals, who point out the practical flaws?

Amazingly, Greer allowed herself to be corrected — she sat back and took it. This really was a funny old 30 minutes, as I may have said. In an interesting encounter in a pub, a former convict assured her that branding criminals wouldn't work in the rather innocent way she envisaged — with society declining lifts home from men marked "R" (for "rapists"). Oh no.

The criminal shook his head. The result of wearing a brand would be lynching, he said. Which rather suggested that Greer was right: fear of lynching would be an excellent deterrent, surely.

Being in the North, it's only polite to watch *Dale's Diary* (Yorkshire). Needing some light relief from rape was reason enough, in any case. *Dale's Diary* — which opens each week with grass-green shots of sheep, tells a bridge, a cow, more sheep, a shady path and another little bridge with sheep on it — almost never deals with the issue of rape, I fancy. Sheep are its mainstay, in case you couldn't guess. A typical line from presenter Luke Casey is "Still on the subject of sheep". Not interested in sheep? Then don't watch *Dale's Diary*. But Luke Casey is a living embodiment of the great Johnsonian truth, when a man is

tired of sheep he's tired of life. Last night's items included a feature about the *Dales Way* and a mad scheme to rebuild an old railway viaduct, but the star item still involved woolly items that went "baah". *Dales* folk are no different from everybody else when it comes to summer sports like cricket and tennis on the television," said Luke, leaning on a stout fell-walker's stick. "But mention a top-class sheep show and all other types of competition pale into insignificance.

If I were Prime Minister, I would make everyone watch *Dale's Diary*; society would be cured of many ills in an instant. Swaledale tufts and ewes winning rosettes; proud but laconic owners pocketing prizes with a gruff "Kyou". It makes you realise how horribly over-stimulating television so often is.

• Matthew Bond is on holiday

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12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1423204)

12.05pm The Alphabet Game (s) (4695407)

12.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (6426310)

1.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (13730)

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1.40 Small Talk (1) (Ceefax) (s) (59756865)

2.10 Lovejoy (1) (Ceefax) (s) (3005925)

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6.30 Regional news magazines (391)

7.00 Watchdog: Value for Money, Vanessa Feltz challenges the polo set to tell a bottle of "Bolby" from supermarket champagne (Ceefax) (s) (7049)

7.30 EastEnders, Matters take an unexpected turn for the Dalford Six (Ceefax) (s) (5745517)

8.00 Dusk to Dusk: Paddington the Zambesi, Jonathan Scott's African safari takes in the famous Zambezi river (Ceefax) (s) (3469)

8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart: Let Your Go, Yvonne thinks she may be pregnant (1) (Ceefax) (s) (52044)

9.00 Nine O'Clock News: Regional News; Weather (Ceefax) (3204)

9.30 Out of This World, Carol Vorderman and Chris Choi explore the paranormal. Choi investigates the ghostly photograph of a girl in a blazing building and there is new evidence to reveal whether premonitions can come true (Ceefax) (s) (53407)

10.15 FILM: Dick Tracy (1990), The Chester Gould comic-strip classic is transferred to live action in a spectacular fashion. Warren Beatty in the title role, Madonna as the delightfully named Breathless Mahoney and Al Pacino's parodic portrayal of the megalomaniac gangster Big Boy Caprice are just three examples of the strong characterisation of the film. Directed by Warren Beatty (Ceefax) (s) (414662)

11.35 FILM: Heaven Can Wait (1978), Romantic comedy about an American footbalier who is whisked off to heaven after a road accident. Unfortunately he is waiting to be reincarnated, his body is cremated and he is sent back to earth in the body of a recently murdered millionaire. With Warren Beatty, Julie Christie, Jack Palance, Charles Grodin, Dyan Cannon, Buck Henry, Vincent Gardenia and James Mason. Directed by Warren Beatty (Ceefax) (s) (544662)

1.35pm Weather (5645334)

6.00am Business Breakfast (9372) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (10643)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (2772117)

9.20 Do You Want a Smack? (1) (s) (1154515)

10.00 Gourmet Ireland (s) (5733488)

10.20 FILM: The Bulldog Breed (1960), Navy and space-age set farce with Norman Wisdom. Directed by Robert Asher. Includes news at 11.00 (b/w) (1030204)

12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (1423204)

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1.35pm Weather (5645334)

6.00 Picture This: The Chiff-Chaff Chums, A Crimby Girl Guide troupe makes its annual camp (Ceefax) (s) (4339)

8.30 Tracks (Ceefax) (s) (3846)

9.00 Lonesome Dove: Plains (34) Gus tries to comfort a devastated Lorena (1) (Ceefax) (s) (2575)

10.00 Newsnight (Ceefax) (629317)

11.15 Edinburgh Nights, Featuring an interview with the distinguished director Bernardo Bertolucci (1) (s) (115778)

12.05pm Grace Under Fire (5890063)

12.30 The Learning Zone: Princes and Peoples (18402) 1.00 Images of the Cosmos (12150) 1.30 Children and New Technology (3624) 2.00 Summer Nights, Book Lovers' Collection 2 (51739) 4.00 Languages: Bilingual Italia/Dic/Terme/ Spanish Globo (43805)

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10.30 Edinburgh Nights, Featuring an interview with the distinguished director Bernardo Bertolucci (1) (s) (115778)

12.05pm Grace Under Fire (5890063)



RACING 37

Feast in store
for punters
at Ebor meeting

SPORT

TUESDAY AUGUST 20 1996

TENNIS 39

Juniors ambitious
to follow in
famous footsteps



Leading goalscorer left out of squad for World Cup qualifying match

Wales strike Rush from their plans

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

IAN RUSH, the Leeds United and former Liverpool striker, was yesterday left out of the Wales squad for the World Cup qualifying match against San Marino in Cardiff on August 31. It prompted immediate speculation that Rush's international career, spanning 16 years and 73 appearances, is over.

The reality may be different, but not by much. Rush asked Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, to be left out if it was likely he would not start the game against San Marino, the group seven minnows. Gould said that he could not guarantee him a place and, thus, he was omitted.

It is nothing new. Rush, 34, has missed the past two Wales international matches, against Switzerland and San Marino. He had requested leave of absence because he was trying to resolve his future after being released by Liverpool.

Gould agreed, with Wales losing 2-0 to Switzerland in Lugano in April and beating San Marino 5-0, in the tiny republic in northern Italy, in their opening World Cup qualifying match in June.

Rush has subsequently joined Leeds, where he has been made captain.

However, he was name to be left out of the squad for the qualifying game against Holland in Cardiff in October, it could be safely assumed that Gould has other plans. To go into such a daunting match without Rush, Wales's leading goalscorer with 28 goals, would be tantamount to admitting that, indeed, his international career was over.

"I spoke to Ian last week and invited him to join the squad," Gould said yesterday. "I explained that there would be no place for him in the team and, on that basis, he decided

SQUAD

WALES SQUAD v San Marino, Aug 31: N. Southall (Everton), D. Coyle (Tranmere Rovers), A. Maitland (Wrexham), M. Bowen (West Ham United), C. Coleman (Blackburn Rovers), D. Cowdrey (Bolton), A. McEvilly (Sunderland), K. Symons (Manchester City), M. Browning (Bristol Rovers), J. Gould (Hull), M. Hart (Birmingham), H. Hooper (Birmingham City), M. Hughes (Cardiff), A. Legg (Birmingham City), M. F. Remondino (Sheffield Wednesday), J. Robinson (Charlton), R. Savage (Sheffield Wednesday), G. Spence (Everton), R. George (Manchester United), D. Saunders (Nottingham Forest), G. Taylor (Sheffield United).

that he did not want to be involved.

"I felt the team that beat San Marino did well and I would like to use basically the same side again. Mark Hughes and Dean Saunders were highly effective up front and did an excellent job."

Rush, who was offered a player-coaching role by Gould when he was appointed Wales manager a year ago, made his last appearance in the 3-0 defeat against Italy in Terni in January. He was replaced in the 64th minute and was none too pleased by the decision.

Gould's often blunt approach also upset Hughes, when he left him out of the European championship qualifying match against Al-

bania in November, but he swiftly smoothed over their differences.

"People said then that it meant the end for Mark," Gould said, "but he has come right back into the team and is playing better than ever. I just cannot guarantee anyone a place."

In an effort to give a chance to everybody qualified to play for Wales, Gould has used 34 players in his six matches in charge. He is determined to lift the national team out of the international doldrums, with John Robinson, the Zimbabwean-born Charlton Athletic midfield player, one of the few to break through the old guard into the side.

Gould has become vigorously involved with Welsh football at all levels since he succeeded Mike Smith and, yesterday, he selected Dean Huggins, the Barry Town defender, for the Wales Under-21 squad for the game against San Marino on August 30. Huggins, 19, who moved from Bristol City in the close season, is the first player from a League of Wales club to be included in a Wales squad.

John Hartson, the Arsenal striker, will probably lead the attack for the game at Jenner Park, Barry's ground, after being overlooked for the 20-strong senior party. There is no suggestion that his international career is on the rocks; it has barely started and, in the past, he has won five caps. For Rush, though, the omens are not so good.

Meanwhile, Barry were left with a mountain to climb — literally — before the second leg of their UEFA Cup preliminary-round tie against Budapest Vasutas, at Jenner Park tonight, because of serious goalkeeping problems.

The League of Wales champions, struggling to overturn a 3-1 deficit from the first leg, will have only one goalkeeper in their squad after failing in their appeal against the dismissal of Mark Ovendale, in Hungary, and being refused permission by UEFA to sign another goalkeeper as cover.

Pat Mountain, on loan from Cardiff City and yesterday named in the Wales Under-21 squad to play San Marino, will take over between the posts and, should he be injured, it is likely that Gary Lloyd, the midfield player, will step into the breach.

Despite the loss of Ovendale, Barry remain upbeat and are confident that they can still reach the first round proper and a possible large pay day. Chris Aust, the general manager, said: "The players really feel they can do it. There should be a capacity



Rush, installed by his new club, Leeds, as their captain, could find no place in the Wales team to play San Marino

crowd and if we can get the first goal we must have an outstanding chance."

Anthony Bird, the striker, will be one of those anxious to open Barry's account tonight after missing the first leg because of suspension.

Although Barry were given permission by the League of Wales to postpone their opening league fixture on Saturday, to give them more time to prepare, the player-coach, Gary Barnett, has yet to name his squad.

The Football Association

has warned clubs with poor disciplinary records to improve or face further action. Queens Park Rangers and Wimbledon, who have been fined £15,000 and £10,000 respectively, must avoid trouble for the rest of the season.

QPR have a £50,000 suspended fine hanging over them which could be invoked if their record has not improved when it comes up for review by the FA at the end of the present campaign.

Wimbledon must tread carefully to avoid having a

suspended £15,000 fine activated and Middlesbrough and Manchester City are threatened with £25,000 suspended fines meted out to them. Millwall, Portsmouth and Luton Town have £10,000 suspended fines against their names.

Steve Double, an FA spokesman, said: "Clubs who are in this situation are expected to show a marked improvement in their disciplinary records."

Bally's options, page 41
Celtic's task, page 41

Christie rethinks decision to retire

By DAVID POWELL

ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

EVEN before Linford Christie went out onto the track last night for what was supposed to be his last appearance in a Great Britain vest, it appeared that those who had turned up to see the farewell had been lured to Gateshead under false pretences. Christie is not now retiring, it appears.

Christie told Mike Whittingham, Roger Black's coach and a Radio 5 Live summerer, that, if asked, he would consider competing for Britain in the European Cup in Munich next year. Then Tony Ward, the BAF spokesman, confirmed that Christie had indicated the same to Malcolm Arnold, the Britain head coach.

"It was part of a conversation with Malcolm, not a formal declaration," Ward said. "We shall see but, certainly, Christie the enigma lives on.

After only 6,000 spectators had turned up at Crystal Palace eight days earlier, for a first meeting in Britain after the Olympic Games, the British Athletic Federation needed the encouragement of a good-sized crowd. The queue for tickets was some 30 metres long before the meeting

started and, by the time of the first main track event, the stadium, which holds 11,750, was close to three-quarters full.

The format was more attractive than had been the case for Crystal Palace, in which none of the track races, except those with hurdles, was over an Olympic distance. On this occasion, there were some outstanding head-to-head matches: Christie against Donovan Bailey, Steve Smith and Charles Austin, Jonathan Edwards against Kenny Harrison, Colin Jackson against Allen Johnson, in each case the best Briton against the Olympic champion. Furthermore, Gateshead was blessed with fine weather.

With only four competitors in each event, two from each side, the action was easy to follow and ensured fast-flowing competition in the field events. The men's shot, the first event, was all over in 25 minutes. Sean Pickering gave Britain a winning start, with a fine series of four marks over 18 metres. He saved his best until last, an 18.6-metre effort, more than half a metre farther than he managed in the Olympics.

A first scoring event on the track also produced a victory for Britain but, surprisingly,

was Neil Caddy who gained the maximum five points, not John Nutall, the Olympic 5,000 metres semi-finalist.

With all four athletes together at the bell in the 3,000 metres, Caddy sprinted away down the home straight to win in 8min 03.95sec. Nutall could manage only third place, behind Rich Kenah, in 8:05.14.

Edwards, meanwhile, the triple jump world record-holder, also wants to become Britain's No 1 in the long jump. Edwards, Olympic triple jump silver medal-winner in Atlanta, believes that the long jump has been stagnant for far too long. "I've got the natural speed for it. Some day

I'll step back and try the long jump," he said on BBC Breakfast News yesterday.

"Lynn Davies broke the British record in 1968 and it's lasted for far too long. I'm sure I can break it. We need to get some interest back in the long jump."

He has not ruled out

going for both jump disciplines in the Sydney Olympics in 2000. "Maybe I'll double up," he said.

But the triple jump remains the top priority. "I've definitely still got a gold in the triple jump in me. And that's my aim for Sydney," he said.

Another who will be stick-

ing to his main occupation — of throwing javelins — is Jan Zelezny, the Olympic champion, despite his decision to attend the Atlanta Braves baseball team's spring training camp in Florida next year.

As a workout with the Braves, he threw the ball over 100 metres across the length of the field and into the stands.

The Czech, who holds the

world record for the javelin at

98.48 metres, impressed the

players.

Zelezny said: "The man who

was catching the ball came up

and shook my hand after

wards and said it was good. I

am glad I tried it, but to do it

properly would take a lot of

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BUSINESS

Australians
seek to
play home
sides in
grand slam

By DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE demise, 12 years ago, of the grand-slam rugby union tour was a matter for regret. The prospect of beating all four home unions was an enticing objective for the incoming visitors from New Zealand, Australia and South Africa until tours contracted so much that only two internationals could be managed.

Now that prospect has been revived by Australia, who are considering whether they will embrace all four countries during their tour this autumn, which was originally designed to play Scotland and Ireland, with Italy tacked onto the front for good measure.

The reasons are twofold. One, obviously, is financial. The sport needs to generate new money to pay the first wave of fully-professional players. The second illustrates the shortage of quality opposition in what is not yet, truly, a world game, even if it is played in more than 100 countries. Everyone seeks to meet the best opposition — forgetting, for the moment, the hiatus in relationships between England and the other home unions — that Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are in constant demand.

England stand in danger of losing their five nations' fixtures in the new year with no resolution of their differences with Ireland, Scotland and Wales in sight. But they have long acknowledged the need for regular fixtures with the southern hemisphere.

Where, though, will they fit in an additional match and still keep faith with their clubs, who will be loath to lose their contracted players for more dates than the present schedule allows? As matters stand, Australia play Italy on October 23, Scotland on November 9 and Ireland at November 30. Wales hope to play them on November 21 and John O'Neill, the Australian Rugby Football Union chief executive, has said: "We have three of the four grand-slam countries, why wouldn't you maximise the tour?"

England, however, already play internationals on November 23 (against Italy), November 30 (New Zealand Barbarians) and December 14 (Argentina).



SOLUTION TO NO 864
ACROSS
1 (Go to) destruction (4,3,4)
8 Light-splitting glass (5)
9 Amazingly talented child (7)
10 Hoodwink (4)
11 In poverty (8)
13 Edge boundary (6)
14 Soft-nosed bullet (6)
17 Plump: a suet pudding (4-4)
19 Please answer (1,1,1,1)
22 Parvenu (7)
23 Sky-blue (5)
24 (Actions) subverting the Crown (11)

SOLUTION TO NO 865
ACROSS
1 Swift (5)
2 Fast sailing ship (7)
3 Fighting force (4)
4 Girl Apollo turned to laurel (6)
5 Very attentive to wife (5)
6 Unwelcome sound (5)
7 Interrelated, functioning set (6)
12 Oust (8)
13 Go on raid (6)
15 Interrupt; trouble (7)
16 Criticises heavily: roof-ties (6)
18 Franz —, piano virtuoso/composer (5)
20 Irritate; annoy (5)
21 Principal (4)

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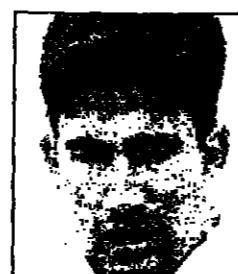
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BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21 1996

Consumer demand cheers City

By ROBERT MILLER
AND JANET BUSH

FRESH economic data showing further strong growth in consumer credit and a continued demand for home loans brought cheer to the City yesterday.

Encouraged by a stream of positive figures from banks, building societies and the Bank of England, the FT-SE 100 index finished the day 19.5 points up to close at a record high of 3,883.2.

The Building Societies Association (BSA) said it was particularly heartened that while net mortgage advances fell to £1.2 billion in July, from £1.4 billion the previous month, the figure was still 68 per cent higher than a year ago. Ron Armstrong, deputy director-general of the BSA, said: "Other housing market indicators look promising for

THE US Federal Reserve decided to leave American interest rates unchanged when its Federal Open Market Committee met yesterday. The decision not to raise rates was widely expected in financial markets after a recent run of economic data suggesting that blistering growth in the second quarter had already cooled off and that inflation remained low. Federal Funds stay at 5.25 per cent.

The BBA added that consumer credit also rose strongly in July, by £539 million, more than double the previous month's £266 million and compared with a six month average of £362 million.

Tim Sweeney, director-general of the BBA, said: "Further strong growth in consumer credit was a feature of the major banks' figures for July. With the seasonally adjusted increase of £539 million very close to the record April figure, this may point to a strengthening of consumer spending. In total, with mortgage lending rising in line with the recent monthly average, personal sector borrowing increased by over £1 billion."

The picture of stronger consumer activity appeared to be confirmed in figures from the Credit Card Research Group that showed spending on credit and debit cards in July up nearly 16 per cent compared with a year ago.

Figures from the Bank of England yesterday showed that the M4 measure of broad money supply has fallen into the Government's monitoring range for the first time for ten months. Above-target growth in M4 has been a key reason why the Bank has imposed lower rates and recently argued for rates to be raised.

However, analysts said yesterday's figures do not materially change the outlook for rates. Annual growth in M4 fell to 8.8 per cent in July from 10.1 per cent in June but this was largely because of a big repayment of government borrowing in that month and hefty sales of UK government bonds.

The Bank yesterday announced that it will sell £2.5 billion of 7.5 per cent gilts due to mature in 2006. The auction will be held on August 28.

Permanent. In the first six months of the newly merged entity to January 31 the Halifax reported £34.7 million pre-tax profit.

The Halifax said it was on course with plans for a share listing next summer, when nine million members will become shareholders in the largest ever flotation of its kind. Jon Foulds, chairman, said details of an innovative solution to create an orderly market when dealings begin would be announced shortly.

First half gross mortgage lending was £4.8 billion, while net lending was £585 million. Net retail receipts of £783 million reflected historically low returns from savings accounts and record inflows of funds into alternative, equity-based investments.

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Incentives cost Halifax £300m

By ROBERT MILLER

HALIFAX Building Society has spent nearly £300 million on special mortgage incentives such as discounted home loans and cash-backs to attract borrowers in two years.

Reporting broadly unchanged half-year profits of £649.1 million in the six months to June 30 yesterday, Britain's largest mortgage lender said that although it had chosen not to compete aggressively in the housing market this year, special deals had taken £81 million off its bottom-line profits. The accumulated difference to profitability of making such concessions to encourage reluctant home buyers back to the market since 1994 was £295 million.

The latest half-time figures are distorted because there is no direct comparison with the same period last year before the merger with the Leeds

German rates, page 24
Pennington, page 25
Stock market, page 26

Thistle aims to expand after float

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

THISTLE HOTELS yesterday said it was aiming to raise £50 million to help to fund expansion when it comes to the market next month.

Robert Peel, chief executive, said the company, Britain's second largest hotels group, would use around £100 million to build 2,000 rooms at existing hotels.

The rest of the money will be used to cut debt. The float is expected to value Thistle at between £1 billion and £1.5 billion.

The company is majority owned by Brierley Investments, a New Zealand investment group, which will reduce its 70 per cent stake to between 40 and 50 per cent after flotation.

The company unveiled an 88 per cent increase in half-year profits, excluding exceptional items, to £24.1 million. Overall turnover rose 12 per cent to £146 million.

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Abbey faces bill for N&P compensation

By CAROLINE MERRILL

ABBEY NATIONAL may be forced to compensate up to 10,000 people because of an administrative blunder after its takeover of the National & Provincial Building Society this month.

The problems involve N&P mortgage transactions that were in the process of being completed when the merger was finalised on August 3.

N&P previously carried out its

mortgage transactions from 22 sites around the country.

Now, all mortgages are being dealt with by a single administration unit in Bradford, which is under massive strain as it attempts to cope with a huge backlog of applications.

A spokeswoman for the Abbey National said: "We

have taken on extra staff to try

and deal with the backlog. They are working through the

chain. Others, though, may not enjoy such good fortune.

House sellers who fail to get funds on the appointed day can penalise the buyer financially, depending on the terms of the contract.

Delays in exchange and completion could jeopardise the entire purchase for some of the former N&P borrowers.

Abbey National said that it would compensate all those who lose money because of the mistakes.

Savers and borrowers with N&P will receive bonuses from next week as their share of the ownership of the society.

When Abbey National converted to a bank in 1989 many members had to wait weeks for their bonus share certificates as large numbers were destroyed in a skip in South London.

INSPIC bows to staff plan critics

By JASON NISSE

INSPIC, the fast growing chemicals group that used to be part of BP, has bowed to institutional investor pressure and reformed its controversial scheme to allow its staff a no-lose way of subscribing for shares in the group.

The scheme would have allowed directors, employees and their families to subscribe for up to £8 million of shares in Inspec's proposed £101 million rights issue and only pay for them if the share price went up. It is almost identical to a scheme waved through by shareholders last year.

After pressure from the Association of British Insurers and leading investors including Prudential, Scottish Widows and Standard Life which threatened to vote the scheme down, Inspec has revised the plan in time for today's extraordinary shareholders meeting.

Inspec has made three changes. It has said the shares can only be taken up if the company performed in the top quartile of the UK chemicals sector, that the shares can only be bought in three years time and that employees' spouses and families are excluded from the scheme.

Inspec was floated two years ago after a management and employee buyout from BP.

The approval of the employee share ownership scheme is a key element of the rights issue which is being used to fund the £201 million purchase of Shell's fine chemicals operation.



Masterpiece: La Promenade

Former Australian hero jailed for three years

FROM ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

ALAN BOND, the Australian entrepreneur who was once described by Bob Hawke, the former Australian Prime Minister, as "one of the outstanding exports of pommie-land", was back behind bars again last night after being sentenced to three years for fraud.

The disgraced businessman, who in the 1980s founded a worldwide empire worth billions, was jailed by a court in Perth, Western Australia, after being convicted on four corporate fraud charges over the purchase and sale of La Promenade, the impressionist painting by Manet, which Bond bought in 1983 for more than £2 million. The court heard that

the businessman's family company, Dalhold Investments, made a multimillion-dollar profit on transactions involving the painting, at the expense of Bond Corporation Holdings, the public company he founded.

For Bond, who faces a non-parole period of one year, it is his second time behind bars. In 1992 he was sentenced to two-and-a-half years' imprisonment over an alleged £8 million secret commission relating to the collapse of an Australian merchant bank. The sentence was later quashed, but not before he had spent 90 days in jail. Bond is due to return to court next year to face further charges relating to Bond Corporation.

The former tycoon, who emigrated to Australia from his family home in Ealing at the age of 13, looked strained but showed no reaction as sentence was passed. His defence counsel argued that a prison sentence might damage his client's health and even kill him, but the Judge told Bond that the seriousness of the crimes left no option but for him to serve a jail term.

Bond's fall from grace has

left him with few friends. He has been living as a discharged bankrupt at his son's home in Perth. Bond Corpora-

tion has unpaid debts of more than £15 billion pounds and shareholders have received nothing. Yesterday's sentence is widely regarded as the end of his colourful career.

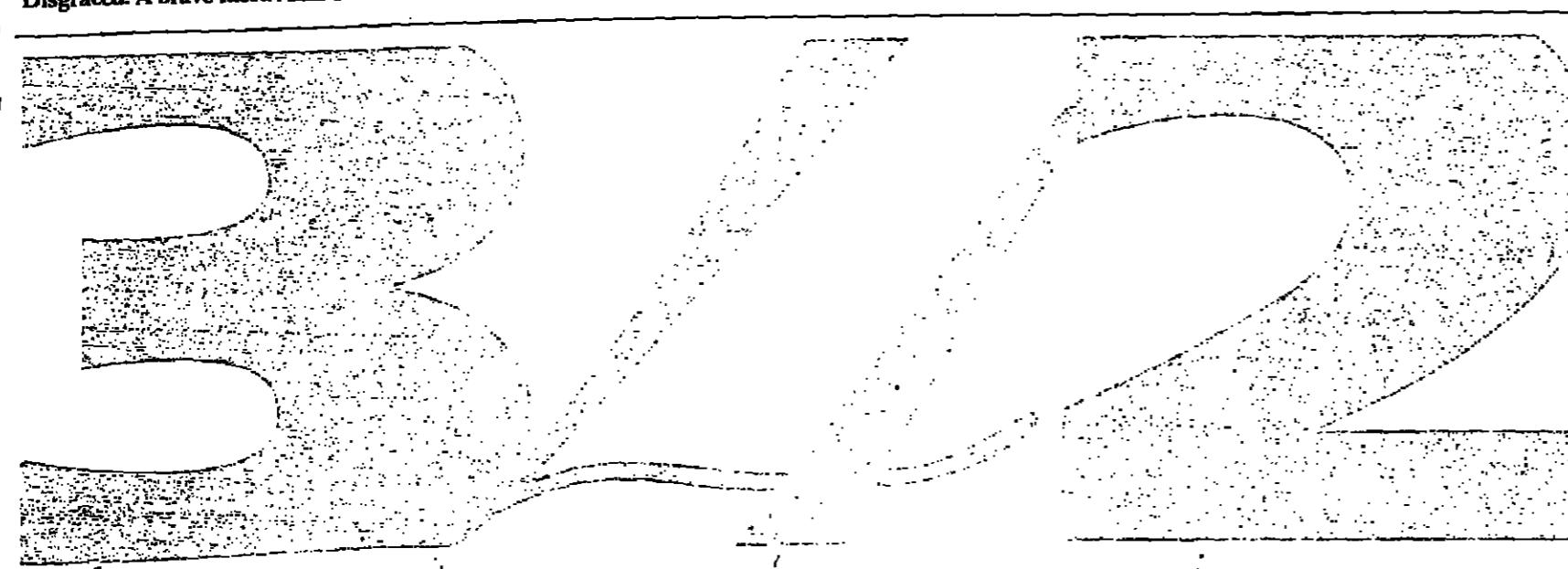
In 1983 he was seen as the great Australian hero who brought home the America's Cup. He could do no wrong in the eyes of most Australians, as both sportsman and tycoon, but his debts and dealings caught up with him in the 1990s. His fortunes began to fade after he built up a stunning art collection said to be worth £75 million. The centrepiece was Vincent van Gogh's *Iris*, for which he paid a world-record \$42 million.

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Bank deal to reduce 'credit risk'

British banks yesterday announced new measures aimed at substantially reducing credit risks and stimulating liquidity in the \$6 trillion interbank market (Robert Miller writes).

Working under the umbrella of the British Bankers' Association (BBA), UK banks and their counterparts in the G10 leading world economies have signed up to a new deposit netting agreement.

The new legal standard will allow banks that have lent money to each other to offset their credit risks against deposits that they already hold.

The BBA said the effects of the new agreement would be to release more funds for other transactions and give the international banking system greater protection in the event that a bank collapses and cannot meet its debts.

As interbank deposits work two ways — banks may lend and borrow simultaneously and in different currencies and for different lengths of time — the new offset arrangement should cover these diverse activities more effectively, it said.

Tim Sweeney, director-general of the BBA, said: "The BBA has set a new standard in reducing credit risk throughout the market, enabling banks to pursue more profitable activities. The agreement will also stop the failure of one bank affecting others".

ICI ends talks

ICI has ended joint-venture discussions with the Yu Gang Company of Chongqing, China, to produce titanium dioxide in China. Tioxide, an ICI subsidiary, and Yu Gang were unable to agree.

Titles sold

Wilmington Group, the publishing company headed by Brian Gilbert that floated last December, has bought two international energy titles, *Nuclear Engineering International* and *Water Power & Dam Construction*, along with associated conferences from Reed Elsevier for £56,000.



Hans Snook, managing director of Orange, sought to allay City fears of a slowdown in the rate of growth in the mobile phone industry

Orange stays buoyant despite plunging deeper into the red

BY PAUL DURMAN

ORANGE, the mobile phone company that floated on the stock market in March, yesterday insisted that its industry remains in robust health despite reporting first-half losses of £125 million.

Hans Snook, managing director of Orange, sought to allay City fears of a slowdown in the rate of growth in the mobile phone industry, claiming the apparent slowdown

was partly due to confusion among potential consumers, who find it difficult to choose between the complex pricing tariffs available.

He said: "Once the average users, the granny and grandad in Edinburgh, are comfortable that they know what the costs are, then market penetration is going to pick up very quickly."

Mr Snook also blamed the

high "churn" rate of lost customers suffered by Vodafone and Cellnet, the industry leaders. While gross connections in the first half remained not far short of 1.5 million, heavy losses of existing customers meant net connections of new subscribers fell a third to 617,000.

Within this changing picture, Orange has continued to make progress. Its first-half

net connections rising from 104,000 last year to 194,000, giving it a market share of more than 31 per cent.

Mr Snook said he expected, as in the past, that second-half demand for mobile phones would outstrip that for the first six months of the year. Orange now has more than 600,000 subscribers. Orange's loss was an increase from £88.8 million last year. From its

expanded customer base, turnover jumped 156 per cent to £256.5 million.

For the first time Orange generated a positive cashflow of £6 million from its operating activities — an important milestone in the company's development, according to Graham Howe, the finance director. Orange is expected to move into profit in 1998.

Analysts were impressed that Orange has been able to increase its average monthly revenue per subscriber to £36.86, from £36.51 in the first half of 1995. Average monthly usage was also slightly higher at 167 minutes. Usually, mobile phone companies expect to see a fall in their average revenue as they attract customers who use their phones less often.

Shares in Orange rose 6p yesterday to 195p. Orange has given its shareholders a turbulent ride. Priced at 205p, the shares initially raced to 253p before sliding back to a low of 174p at the end of July.

Tempus, page 26

Kerry's 21% rise beats forecasts

FROM EILEEN McCABE, IN DUBLIN

KERRY GROUP, Ireland's biggest food company, yesterday reported interim pre-tax profits up by 21 per cent, almost five percentage points more than analysts had forecast.

In the half-year to June 30, the company increased profits to £19.9 million, from £16.5 million in the same period last year, after a strong performance by all divisions. Earnings per share rose 20.4 per

cent, to £10.6p. The company declared an interim dividend of £1.264p, up 15 per cent.

Statistical turnover in Ireland was balanced by increases of 22 per cent in other European markets and 9 per cent in North America. Overall turnover rose 9 per cent, to £89.4 million.

Kerry Ingredients made operating profits of £29.4 million on £322.2 million sales,

including four months of trading by Ciprial, a fruit ingredients company with operations in France and Italy, which was bought by Kerry in February.

Kerry Foods, the consumer goods division, performed particularly well, increasing operating profits by 15 per cent, to £10 million, on sales of £226.8 million.

Although the BSE scare cut sales in some areas, this was

offset by increases in branded product sales, the company said. In spite of a slight rise in turnover in agri-business activities, their operating profits fell from £11.2 million to £8.8 million.

The company said that current trading was in line with targets. It expected to complete integration of DCA Food Ingredients, a US acquisition, by the end of this financial year.

Tempus, page 26

TransCo faces new curbs

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH GAS was last night studying an advance copy of price curbs for TransCo, its pipeline business. The regulator will today publish what is expected to be a softened version of initial proposals which caused a storm of protest when they were announced in May.

It is not clear whether the modification will be sufficient to deter British Gas from seeking a referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Yesterday the Gas Consumers Council kept up the pressure for the curbs imposed on TransCo to deliver the £30 a year cut in household bills which the regulator had at first indicated would be likely next year.

Analysts are tipping the one-off charge to be within the 20 per cent to 25 per cent range. Ian Powe, director of the Gas Consumers Council, said that £30 off bills can be delivered with a reduction next year of 20 per cent.

Ofgas today will also unveil further assaults on TransCo's monopoly position with the publication of policy outlines on connection charging, metering and storage.

Despite such caveats, economists were a touch more confident after the figures that the Bundesbank may sanction a small reduction in its repurchase rate tomorrow.

Last week, a number of senior officials, including Otar Issing, the bank's chief economist, hinted that a rate cut may be possible if M3 growth continued to slow.

German rate cut hopes rise

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

GROWTH in German M3 money supply, the economic indicator most closely watched by the Bundesbank, slowed by more than expected in July and increased hopes that rates may be cut when the bank's policymaking council meets tomorrow.

Growth in M3 dropped to an annualised 8.6 per cent in July compared with 9.6 per cent in June. In addition, the monthly rise of 0.2 per cent was the lowest increase for a year.

Less positive for those hoping for lower rates was a big 0.6 per cent jump in bank lending, one of the key components of M3. Also, despite the fall in its annualised rate, M3 is still outside the Bundesbank's monitoring range of 4 to 7 per cent.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Setback for names as court backs Lloyd's

LLOYD'S OF LONDON was still awaiting the outcome of a crucial court action in Virginia last night, as a separate case ended in a further defeat for aggrieved American names. A court in the Southern District of New York granted a motion by Lloyd's to dismiss a lawsuit brought by four names, who were seeking to prove that Lloyd's knew the extent of the liabilities that names faced by participating in some syndicates. Three of the plaintiffs were members of the Tufts family, who have taken a leading role in the Virginia action.

Peter Lane, managing director of Lloyd's North America, said: "Names entered into their commitments under UK law, and we are pleased that US courts continue to recognise this. What is important now is that names focus on accepting the R&R settlement offer." Names have a week in which to decide whether to accept the £3.2 billion Lloyd's settlement aimed at ending outstanding legal claims. In the Virginia action, about 100 names are seeking an injunction on the Lloyd's recovery plan, saying they want details of Equitas funding before taking a decision on R&R. Lloyd's says it is a matter for the UK courts. Closing arguments in the Virginia case are expected to be heard today.

Hutchings on £1.2m

GREG HUTCHINGS, chairman of Tomkins, the bread, guns and lawnmowers conglomerate, was paid £1.2 million and exercised share options worth £1.9 million in the group's last financial year. He also received fresh options worth £221,000, bringing the total potential value of options not taken up to £1.59 million, and had £67,000 paid into his pension scheme. Mr Hutchings's pay rose by £47,000. Ian Duncan, finance director, saw his salary increase by £22,000 to £70,400.

VW subsidies summit

GUENTER REXRODT, Germany's economics minister, will meet Karel van Miert, the European Competition Commissioner, in Brussels on Friday to resolve a dispute over state subsidies to Volkswagen. The Commission has ruled that funds totalling DM91 million received by VW from the state of Saxony were illegal and must be returned. In June the Commission refused to clear subsidies amounting to DM241 million for VW investment in Chemnitz and the Mosel region.

Takare rethinks strategy

TAKARE, Britain's second-largest nursing homes group, yesterday signalled its intention to pursue possible acquisitions in the healthcare sector. The group is scaling back its new build programme to redirect cash towards an acquisition war chest. Keith Bradshaw, chairman, said the group's spending power could total £100 million. Takare's pre-tax profits in the six months to June 30 fell to £8.7 million from £10 million in the same period last year. Earnings per share were 5.5p (6.5p). An interim dividend of 1p (0.9p) will be paid on October 7.

NatWest-Fleet alliance

NATWEST GROUP and Fleet Financial Group are to collaborate in the provision of banking services to corporate customers in Britain and America. NatWest will set up an office in Boston, Mass., to provide sterling and foreign currency account and cash management services to American companies that have a physical presence in Britain or trade there. Desks also will be created in Boston, New York and London. Fleet will provide US dollar accounts and cash management services to the US subsidiaries and offices of British-based companies.

Builders seek redress

BUILDERS are pressing the Government for up to £3 million compensation after improvement schemes for the A40 in west London were suddenly shelved. Earlier this month, and a week before the constructors had planned to submit tenders, the Highways Agency pulled two schemes from being publicly funded. The Federation of Civil Engineering Contractors has complained to Sir George Young, the Transport Secretary. It is possible that the projects could re-emerge as private finance initiatives.

Active Imaging warns

SHARES of Active Imaging, the AIM-listed computer graphics group, fell 23p to 103p after it revealed the loss of two major franchises would put interim results significantly behind last year's. It said seven weeks ago Data Cell, a subsidiary, lost a distribution deal with ITT, the imaging group. David Slorach has resigned as Data Cell's managing director. The company said lost sales would be recovered by new distribution deals with Media Cybernetics and Cognex. Analysts downgraded 1996 forecasts from a £900,000 loss to one of £1.9 million.

Glenchewton higher

GLENCHEWTON, the import and distribution company that last year branched into the pubs business, reported interim pre-tax profits of £538,000, compared with £104,000 a year earlier. The results, for the six months ending June 30, include the first full six-month contribution from the 16 Country Style Inns acquired in October. Their sales grew 8 per cent on a like-for-like basis. Earnings per share rose to 1.89p, up 78 per cent. The company will pay an interim dividend of 0.45p per share (0.30p) on September 17.

Daily Mail group buys

DAILY MAIL AND GENERAL TRUST, the publishing and information company, is to acquire for £9.2 million an initial 40 per cent interest in British Study Group, a provider of academic and language courses for international students, based in Hove, East Sussex. DMGT is to acquire the outstanding shares by the year 2002 for a sum based on the performance of the company, valuing it at approximately £22 million. BSG, which will form part of Hartsword Publishing, a DMGT subsidiary, made £1.3 million profit on £4.5 million turnover in 1995.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Sales	Bank Buys
Australia S	2.02	1.80
Austria Sch	17.19	15.69
Belgium Fr	50.49	48.10
Canada C	2.22	2.00
Cyprus Cyp	0.745	0.691
Denmark Kr	9.48	8.66
Finland Mil	7.98	6.63
France Fr	0.27	0.22
Germany Dm	2.46	2.25
Hong Kong S	3.65	3.29
Iceland I	12.59	11.29
Ireland Irl	1.13	0.93
Italy Lir	1.21	1.01
Ireland Str	5.25	4.61
Japan Yen	2.65	2.08
Japan Yen	180.90	163.00
Malta L	2.25	2.04
Netherlands Gld	2.73	2.503
New Zealand \$	2.39	2.17
Norway Kr	10.49	9.63
Portugal Esc	247.00	228.50
Spain Pta	7.63	6.83
Sweden Kr	201.00	188.00
Switzerland Fr	2.00	1.82
Turkey Lira	1363.04	1250.04
USA \$	1.944	1.714

Rates for small denominations are supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

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Business gives Australian budget cautious welcome

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S financial community gave a cautious welcome to the coalition Government's first budget yesterday as Peter Costello, the Treasurer, delivered his promised A\$3 billion (about £4 billion) of spending cuts but revealed a much worse than expected underlying budget deficit.

The Government's much heralded budget cuts, which include axing £1.8 billion from employment programmes and A\$620 million from spending on national roads. He described the budget measures as "balanced, strong and fair".

Mr Costello forecast an underlying budget deficit of A\$1.55 billion for the financial year to June 1998, moving into surplus of A\$957 million the following year, based on the assumption that GDP will grow by 3.5 per cent over the next year.

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Mr Costello forecast an underlying budget

STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Interest rate hopes help push shares to record

INVESTORS on the London stock market were getting the most out of the "feel-good" factor yesterday as a subdued set of British money supply figures led them to believe that there was still scope for another cut in interest rates.

Their reasoning was underpinned by the German money supply which, it is hoped, will encourage the Bundesbank to cut rates when it meets tomorrow. Whatever the outcome, market-makers decided that the only way was up as prices were marked higher in thin trading, enabling the FT-SE 100 index to close 19.5 points up at a new all-time high of 3,883.2. The previous best was 3,872.9 last Friday.

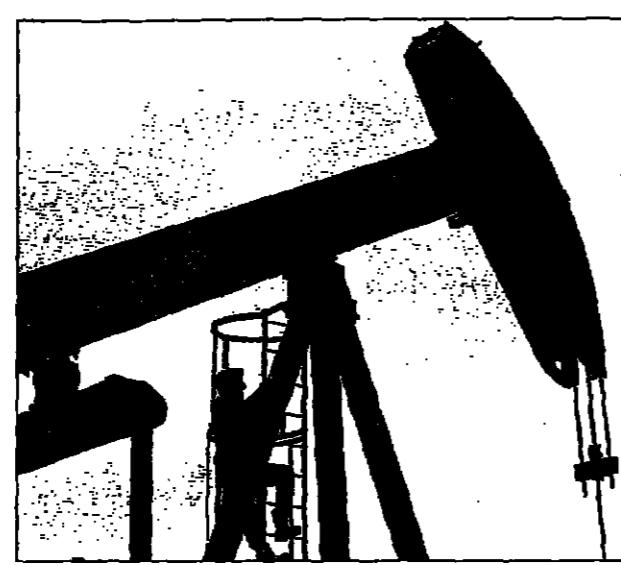
A total of 606 million shares changed hands, with investors concentrating their efforts on blue-chip stocks. Bass was up 14p at 83p. Rank Organisation up better at 47.3p. Zeneca 13p higher at 151.03 and Unilever 12p harder at 121.95. BAT rallied 4p to 456p as turnover reached 1.22 million shares, with the company awaiting the outcome of another US tobacco lawsuit.

A surge in the price of crude oil on world markets and a sprinkling of "buy" recommendations brought a revised in oil shares. BP touched 636p before retreating to close 2p easier at 629p on turnover of six million shares, while Shell added 12p to 961p, encouraged by some positive comments from HSBC James Capel and rival ABN Amro Hoare Govett. Enterprise Oil was another firm market, adding 14.2p at 510.2p with Robert Fleming Securities said to be pushing the shares as more than four million were traded.

Elsewhere in the sector, comments from BZW were good for Cairn Energy, up 8p at 322p. Clyde Petroleum, up firmer at 11.7p and Hardy Oil, which finished 4p higher at a year's high of 274p. Followers in the oil industry see Hardy as a potential takeover target at some stage.

Grand Metropolitan stood out with a rise of 15p at 477p on turnover of almost five million shares. Pillsbury, the company's US food subsidiary, is due to give a presentation to brokers in London this morning offering an update on current trading and prospects.

Hawthorn Foods slipped 1p to 96p as a large "put-through" went through the market as part of a delayed



A surge in the price of crude gave oil shares a boost

trade. The ticker showed a line of 7.4 million shares at 98p.

Disappointment over the dividend left BSkyB, the satellite broadcaster 40 per cent owned by News International, publisher of *The Times*, 2p easier at 535p. This marred an otherwise impressive first-half performance that saw revenues breach the £1 billion mark for the first time with

Zoteofoam has fallen a long way from its peak of 339p this year, closing steady at 215p last night. Credit Lyonnais Laing says prospects remain attractive. It expects the shares to recover their premium rating once de-stocking by one customer has been completed. Shares should be bought up to the 250p level, it says.

pre-tax profits growing 66 per cent to £257.4 million. The company now has five million paying customers with the bulk of recent subscriber growth coming from cable companies.

EMI was again being chased higher, finishing 14p dearer at 11.74 on turnover of 2.1 million shares after the demerger. The shares have been included among the top

100 constituents, prompting the tracking funds to increase their weighting. Thorn was 2p lighter at 389p as six million shares were traded.

Half-year losses at Orange, the mobile phone operator, were no worse than expected and the news that the group had captured 10 per cent of the market lifted the shares 6p to 193p. The price remains 12p

outlook is bright and that the stores sector should be bought. This view is expected to be confirmed later this morning when the latest retail sales are published.

The ensuing revival in institutional demand and stock shortages combined to drive a number of the leading retailers sharply higher. Leading the way were Great Universal Stores, 23p dearer at 663p, followed by Kingfisher, 14p better at 665p. Marks & Spencer, up at 49p, Storehouse, 6p at 310p, Dixons, 11p at 525p, Next, 4p at 562p, and H&C Furniture, 6p at 202p. Argos eased 1p to 756p after Monday's sharp rise.

Railtrack continued to reach new heights with a rise of 51p to 2551p. Institutional investors have been snapping up the shares ahead of them going ex the 13.75p dividend on Tuesday.

Costain, the construction group which has just pushed through a £74 million rescue package, came under selling pressure losing 5p at 66p.

A profits warning just four months after making its public debut left AIM-listed Active Imaging, the intelligent camera products group, 18p lower at 110p. Besson Gregory, the company's own broker, had forecast a further 20p loss of almost £1 million.

Takare's change of tack was rewarded by the City with a rise of 5p to 136p. The group has backed away from building new sheltered homes because of the slow-down in occupancies.

■ GILT-EDGED: Investors in London attempted to establish a new trading level while keeping a close eye on the outcome of the FOMC meeting in America. Brokers reported switching by investors in the cash market, but little fresh retail demand. Prices in London turned easier towards the close in line with other overseas bond markets.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt closed 1% lower at £108 in another day of thin trading that saw just 28,000 contracts completed. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 lost five ticks at £995/32, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was steady at £10319/32.

■ NEW YORK: On Wall Street shares were mixed with oil companies edging higher. By midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was 6.65 points higher at 5,706.

■ FAILS: Macmillan 142p (-10p); Tote Cobleigh 209p (-8p); VR Superscape 480p (-20p); Charter 857p (-9p).

■ CLOSING PRICES: Page 29

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Invest

THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Bassett faces a hounding

PHILIP BASSETT, industrial editor of *The Times*, can expect some serious ribbing when he attends the TUC conference next month. Baron Bassett of Wapping is likely to be the favoured nickname from other industrial journalists, who are all secretly delighted that his partner Liz Symons, general secretary of the First Division Association, was named as one of the new Labour peers yesterday.

Symons, who has led the FDA for 7½ years, and before that was deputy general secretary of the Inland Revenue Staff Federation, has already tendered her resignation, feeling membership of the upper house is not appropriate for a representative of senior civil servants.

Bassett said yesterday he was relieved there was still one inequality for women — their partners do not receive an honorary title. It also robs Liz of one excuse for accepting her peerage. Many of the great and the good say they only accept the honour because their wife fancies being called Lady Whatever.

Helping hand

VIVE la difference. In September's issue of *Vogue*, Olga Polizzi, sister of Sir Rocco Forte, muses on the differences between men and women in the workplace. Men, she says, are overtly concerned about titles and "crawl their way to the top floor". Women, by contrast, "are content with doing a good job" and are less concerned with promotion. She continues: "When something goes wrong women take the blame; men blame someone else." After the Granada takeover, Mrs Polizzi left Forte, the hotels group founded by her father, Lord Forte. She had been a director, a position to which, one supposes, she did not crawl.



Fame at last

MOVE over, Nick Leeson. Hard-hitting financiers at Granville, the private investment banking group, will soon be buying a farewell drink for Paul Dawson, head of PR for the past seven years, who has been appointed lecturer in financial derivatives at London City University. Dawson, 45, said: "The demand for people in derivatives is growing all the time, thanks to Mr Leeson. I will buy him a big drink when he gets out." The says.

Paper chase

AS M&G confirms it is one of the ten bidders for Kleinwort Benson's £500 million European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) spare a thought for Bob Wigley. Merrill Lynch's director of investment banking, a Kepit adviser, has taken delivery of the ten takeover offers with each running to a large box of documents and some considerably more. Wigley, said: "I can't see a clear surface anywhere in my office".

... IF WIGLEY'S paper mountain seems large, the Halifax's looks set for the *Guinness Book of Records* with 75 million mail items as it heads for market next summer.



Famous faces boosting corporate events include, from left, clockwise, Noel Edmonds and Mr Blobby, who backed a Total campaign; Michael

Buerk, who interviewed Royal Mail managers; Heather Mills, the model in demand as a motivational speaker; Willy Rushton and Nick Ross

Mr Blobby at the rostrum as firms play celebrity card

Hiring that 'bloke off the telly' can make corporate events work, says Susan Gray

Wishing upon a star is the latest trend in business conferences, with celebrities speakers and facilitators putting delegates through their paces.

The conference platform cliché "Someone who needs no introduction from me" has taken on new life as delegates get used to watching stars of stage and screen chat to their MD. Appearance fees starting at £2,000 mean that there is no shortage of celebrities willing to share the stage with senior management.

Royal Mail used Michael Buerk, the newscaster, to mark its final phase of changing to fully computerised delivery. He quizzed senior managers on what the new systems would mean in practice at a conference for Royal Mail's operational managers at the Heathrow Radisson. Joining Buerk on a TV studio-style sofa, Royal Mail top brass were interviewed in a combative current affairs format. Buerk's role was to voice the concerns of the conference floor, previewing the issues that operational managers would face from the shopfloor when the system was up and running.

Heavyweight broadcasters are seen to lend credibility to a company's message of openness. Nicky Haviaar, production director of Crown Communication, says that a management's endorsement of question-and-answer sessions with a respected broadcaster shows that it has nothing to hide.

Nick Ross, the broadcaster, referred a four-way debate between 220 former managers and employees of North West Water and Norweb in May. The companies had merged at the end of last year to form United Utilities. At the start of the conference, few delegates expected the debate to be honest and responsive, but, after seeing Ross in action, most delegates felt that management had answered questions fairly.

Miles Johnson, managing director of Presentation Company, organiser of the Royal Mail event, says that celebrities make employee conferences more memorable and, therefore, more effective. "The whole point of employee events is that people return to work on Monday morning and do things differently," he said.

Oddly, celebrities also add familiarity to an alien conference environment.

Delegates feel more at home watching a television personality on a studio-style set than watching their own senior management talk about their own industry.

Just as the right celebrity can make a corporate event memorable, randomly pairing conferences and stars is a recipe for disaster. "There has to be a synergy between the celebrity and the event," says Neil Crespin, managing director of MCM Events. "There's no point in just having the star there to say hello."

In September 1994 Total Oil wanted to relaunch a forecast promotion to coincide with the autumn start of the school run. Advised by Crespin, Total decided to use Noel Edmonds for the relaunch internally and externally. Edmonds appeared on poster sites as his television show *Noel's House Party* started its autumn run, and forecast staff attended a corporate *House Party* designed for Total. Crespin organised two *House Party* events for tranches of 400 Total employees at Nottingham University. Ray Redmond, Total's marketing manager, says: "When Noel came on the stage, the cheers were

were unbelievable. Eighteen months on, people are still talking about it." The *House Party* format helped Total to overcome business problems typical of petrol retailing: employees dispersed over 600 sites, high staff turnover and infrequent contact with senior management.

Redmond says that the event gave forecast employees the chance to meet each other and discover that working for Total was not so bad. Petrol sellers also saw remote headquarters management put in the television programme's guinea tank and win money for charity by competing in *House Party's* Grab a Grand game. The ubiquitous Mr Blobby appeared on stage to poke fun at the promotion. The

subsequent take-up of the promotion helped to dispel any scepticism on the motivational value of Mr Blobby and the guinea tank.

Noel Edmonds says that his success at motivating delegates comes from getting under the skin of the conference brief. "I play the role of communicator as well as host," he says. "I position myself as the enthusiastic consumer." As chairman of the Unique Group, Edmonds is no stranger to hard-hitting business messages. "The novelty of seeing the bloke off the telly soon wears off," he says. "I have to urge delegates to sustain success, through deeper involvement at every level of the company."

Prodrive, a performance engineering firm, used MCM Events to provide a corporate Christmas *House Party* for 240 employees. Prodrive staff were already party veterans through their firm's involvement with the world of motor racing.

David Richards, Prodrive's managing director, said: "Motor racing people are used to champagne and celebrations, so the Christmas party can be just another drudgery. We wanted to come up with something original." MCM

organised a spoof awards ceremony, incorporating elements of the television *House Party*, whose format allowed all staff to be involved.

Richards was "arrested" by actors dressed as customs officers who threatened to close Prodrive. Richards' defence, recorded on video, that 240 jobs depended on him, became the impromptu keynote speech of the event and drew a standing ovation. "Events work so much more effectively in a set, formal format," Richards says. "Staff, clients and sponsors acknowledge the 1995 Christmas party as a unique event."

Prodrive now has a challenge. "We entertain 500 people annually, and can't be seen to do the same thing year on

year," Richards says. "Now we have to work out how to top last year's event."

Richards says that professional event organisers remove effort and worry from companies that engage them. "You want to look professional and dependable, a company that can be relied upon to get things right, and that starts with your own events," he says.

For some corporate conferences, reliability comes from knowing the celebrity's keynote speech, word for word.

Ron Mowlam, of the British Speaker Bureau, says that his hottest motivational properties at the moment are Heather Mills, the model who lost a leg in a road accident, and Benedict Allen, the Amazon explorer.

Other clients simply request a star speaker who fits their image. Mowlam supplied Ned Sherrin for the tenth anniversary client dinner of Office Angels, the temporary staff agency, at the Lanesborough Hotel in central London. Bridget Hamilton, the marketing manager, was delighted with the choice. "Ned's witty one-liners perfectly suited Office Angels' upmarket, sophisticated style," she said.

Organisations with a diverse range of clients mix and match their star facilitators. Sololets, the training and enterprise council for south London, has used Sir David Frost, Will Carling and television's Michael Rodd to chair its Profits Through Performance conference.

Phil Gray, marketing manager, says: "A big name on the ticket attracts people to our events. This helps with off-agenda activities like networking, and getting our services in front of the right people."

Discretion rules the celebrity facilitator phenomenon. Companies fight shy of admitting that they will pay upwards of £2,000 for a speech, or £15,000 for a day-long event. Celebrities, on the other hand, revel in the new-found fortune to go with their fame.

Ron Mowlam asked Willy Rushton,

the radio and television personality, how he could bear to do the same

speech four nights in a row, hearing people laugh in exactly the same

place.

Rushton explained that a day's work at Radio 4 earned him £75, while under an hour's speechmaking brought in a couple of thousand, adding: "That's showbusiness." And, at those rates, very sound business, too.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Playing safe over direct debits

From Mr Michael Abbott
Sir, Your report (St Michael's double confession, August 20) that Marks & Spencer have collected twice from its forty thousand loan and charge account customers causes me no surprise.

If you give a supplier a direct debit it is the same as leaving your purse or wallet on the table in the hope that only fixed amounts will be taken at regular intervals. It is a fool's paradise — so called errors can take that amount as many times as the errors persist and with a variable direct debit the amount can be whatever the supplier decides. My wife

and I will not allow any direct debits on our bank accounts. We now find some service providers charge extra or will not supply unless we have a direct debit — so be it, but we are in control.

I have been called a dinosaur for my "old fashioned" approach to the modern banking technology but dinosaurs lived long. They did not have the stress of direct debits and some species ate their service providers instead. A far happier solution! Yours faithfully,

MICHAEL ABBOTT
27 Pier Avenue,
Tankerton,
Whitstable, Kent.

Simply red for all

From Mr Kenneth Armitage
Sir, Surely it is not a case as to whether or not the public recognise red phone boxes as belonging to BT, as a BT spokeswoman suggests. (BT wants court to cut off callbox rival, August 9) but rather that people, looking to make a telephone call when out and about, could immediately recognise the red phone booth, just as they still recognise the red post box, at some distance.

BT chose presumably as part of its change of image and marketing strategy after privatisation, to replace the unmistakable red phone boxes, in some cases with gaudy hooded booths. A decade ago, surely they can be claimed a right to something they decided to relinquish? Besides, the right to the red phone booths most probably belongs to the former General Post Office (GPO) now the Post Office? Frankly, it would be useful if all telephone booths were returned to the unmistak-

able red colour but simply have a different company logo on the glass door or side panels. That way it is the customer who could choose which telecommunications network provider to use. Yours faithfully,

KENNETH ARMITAGE
6 Deben Valley Drive,
Kesgrave,
Suffolk.

Bank's duty is plain

From Mr T. G. Douglas
Sir, in the debate as to whether interest rates should rise or fall, without reiterating the economic effects on sterling and trade, the real issue is plain. The Bank of England's duty is to advise the Government on such matters. What is the purpose of this function, or even of the Bank itself, if its advice is not taken? Yours faithfully,

T. G. DOUGLAS,
2 Saulfield House,
Saulfield Drive,
Highcliffe-on-Sea,
Christchurch, Dorset.

Maximisation of transatlantic air routes

From Mr A. J. Lucking
Sir, Mr Ayling (Letter, August 13) claims that air fares

have fallen by 40 per cent in five years. My reading of BA's annual reports is that the average receipt per passenger km has fallen 30 per cent, and that much of this fall is due to passengers flying further. This is significant, because so much of the cost involved is concerned with getting people on and off the aeroplanes, whether they fly 200 miles or 10,000.

The Civil Aviation Authority has reported that the first-class and business fares across the Atlantic from London are now the highest from the five major European airports, whereas years ago those from the UK were the lowest. When the author-

No alternative

From Mr W. W. Brimson
Sir, No surprise. Mr Lloyd,

(Bank customers have to pay a high price for modern technology, August 6). Banks always were masters of usury. Now they are gearing up to become masters of electronic usury. Mr Lloyd was lucky that an alternative was available. When the banks get into full electronic swing there will be none.

Yours faithfully,
W. W. BRIMSON,
88 Morris Road,
Lockleaze, Bristol.

Is this the end of the road for the company car?



It Asda go: Archie Norman is to give up his executive perk

Businesses are offering cash options in a bid to shrink fleets, but few employees take them



Fleet treat: company cars remain a highly prized benefit

only a vague reference to reviewing the tax system survived.

As Mr Norman has astutely recognised, the company car is often used, like social class, as a means of marking out tiny gradations of hierarchy and status between individual employees. Whether a colleague has been offered a 1.5 or a 1.6, a GTI or a GLX, with or without a sunroof, is still part of the meat and drink of office chit chat.

David Leibling, head of corporate communications at Lex, said: "It is very difficult to find anyone who has voluntarily given up their car. Our research shows that the number of people losing their company cars for reasons other than retirement or a move of job is infinitesimal.

"Out of 2.7 million company car drivers at the end of 1994, only 30,000, or 1 per cent, had lost them because of a change in company policy. So many people are dependent on them to do their everyday jobs. About 80 per cent of sales people do more than 20,000 miles a year and would be very reluctant to give up their cars. This is a high-profile PR exercise by Archie Norman."

JONATHAN PRYNN
Transport Correspondent

"cash alternatives" offered by employers. The British salaried remains hooked on its £5 billion-a-year perk.

The number of companies offering cash options to try to cut down their bloated car fleets has risen from 20 per cent to 57 per cent last year, but only about one employee in ten is currently taking up the offer.

Matthew Ellis, a senior tax manager with Price Waterhouse, said: "Although about 70 per cent of companies have reviewed their provision of

peculiarly British phenomenon, effectively born in the income policy days of the early and mid-1970s, when giving an employee a car was a highly tax advantageous route around statutory pay restraint.

About 50 per cent of all new cars sold in this country are bought by companies, compared to around 20 per cent in most continental European countries, where the company car features far less prominently in corporate life.

The company car remains a

three million company cars on Britain's roads, and although the numbers fell during the recession, the trend is now firmly up again. Last year, the company car once again topped the league table of corporate perks, ahead of subsidised catering and relocation costs.

It has survived the fiscal attacks of Nigel Lawson, who in successive Budgets doubled and doubled again the taxation of company cars, drastically reducing their financial attractiveness. Since

1986, the annual taxable cost of a typical 1500cc car has risen almost six-fold, from £525 to £2,990.

Even the Labour Party is shying away from full-scale reform of the company car regime to try to cut down their numbers.

One of the early drafts of its transport policy included measures to clamp down heavily on company car use.

By the time the finished

policy was published, red pen had been marked through all the more draconian ideas, and

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Joint for three seasons with the

Shares close near their best of day

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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■ EDINBURGH

At the Film Festival a fine British feature debut, *Gallivant*, catches the eye...



■ EDINBURGH

... while Gillies MacKinnon's *Trojan Eddie* is a tale of Irish rogues written by Billy Roche

THE TIMES
ARTS



■ EDINBURGH

The Martha Graham Dance Company brings its founder's early work to the festival



■ EDINBURGH
... and Britten's *War Requiem* receives a stunning performance under the baton of Donald Runnicles

The Edinburgh Film Festival began life as a documentary showcase and, says Geoff Brown, that's where it still shines

Fantasy found wanting, but reality bites

Scaffolding and blue sheeting jut out into the pavement and block off the frontage of Filmhouse, the hub cinema of what is now proudly called the Drambuie Edinburgh Film Festival. A bad time, surely, to have the builders in. But appearances deceive. The scaffolding and sheeting turn out to be an "installation", one of several by Wendy Hardie designed to bring a festive touch to the cinema on Lothian Road.

The bar decor turns the clock back 50 years to pay homage to Rita Hayworth and the Technicolor frenzy of *Black Narcissus*. The delegates' room, in black and silver, aims for postwar Neo-Realism, although the end result leans more towards a tacky Art Deco night club.

In 1947, when the festival first started, there was no such hanky-panky. It was called the International Festival of Documentary Films, and a picture of a miner at the coalface decorated the programme booklet. One fictional feature, Rossellini's *Paisa*, crept into the first year's selection, but audiences spent most of their time watching *Health for Denmark, Here is the Gold Coast* and the latest films by Britain's documentary maestros, Paul Rotha and Humphrey Jennings.

Documentaries still get special treatment at Edinburgh, but changing times and economics mean the festival now strives to be everything to all men, all women, and the trans-gendered too. It wants to be populist. It wants to be glitz. It wants to be radical. It wants to be serious. It wants to be fun. This is surely too much ambition for one film festival



EDINBURGH
FESTIVAL

to manage, especially when its budget, its status, and its position on the festival calendar mean that the cream of the celluloid crop has already been premiered elsewhere. The exception is British cinema. For the second year running the festival is hosting New British Expo, an event for industry delegates that screens every British feature-length film, cream or dross, made during the past year. The public sees a cross-section too, from worthy dramas orientated towards television to the arcane imaginings of the British Film Institute.

But give it its due: the BFI has actually come up with one of the festival's best surprises. This is Andrew Kotting's *Gallivant*, an unclassifiable first feature in which the director, previously known for his short films, takes his seven-year-old daughter and 90-year-old grandmother on a trip around Britain's coastline from Bexhill-on-Sea, in East Sussex, down to Cornwall, up to the wilds of John O'Groats, and down to Bedhill again. Kotting's daughter has Joubert's syndrome, which restricts her communication to sign language; and much of the film's emotional power comes from the sight of the elderly and the young bonding

together, with their differing frailties.

But the only expedition member who came to harm was Kotting himself. He shattered his ankle: a penalty, perhaps, for playing about, which he is too apt to do on camera. But you accept the indulgence, and an over-generous running-time, for the film's quantities of human quirks and visual beauty. Seascapes and clouds scud by in fast motion. The eye lingers on the stout legs and sensible shoes of Newquay's good ladies, playing bowls. Locals try singing *D'Ye Ken John Peel*. Sociology, geography, family drama, cinematic poetry: *Gallivant* is a multi-dimensional experience, and it makes Edinburgh's other new British films seem very flat.

Even Gillies MacKinnon could not compare. After his success at Edinburgh last year with *Small Faces*, hopes were high for *Trojan Eddie*, a tale of Irish rascals written by Billy Roche. It is good, to be sure, but not that good: you spend a long while slipping between slivers of characters and events before swallowing a big hunk of drama. Stephen Rea, hangdog look to the fore, plays the title character, a market stall seller of trinkets. Richard Harris is the Mr Big who invites being cuckolded by taking a much younger wife (Aislin McGuckin). Smartly directed and beautifully photographed in settings of urban grunge, *Trojan Eddie* makes you glad that a film can still be made in Ireland without sinking in period nostalgia; but it never quite packs the expected punch.

Nick Broomfield, at least, does not disappoint in *Penitentes*, which stirred up

some mild pre-festival controversy by being "the film that Channel 4 dared not show". Since the subject-matter is an S&M parlour called Pandora's Box in New York City, the spectacle necessarily gets a bit rough; although any revulsion at watching Wall Street brokers encased in rubber or plunged into a lavatory is wiped out by the sad realisation that these people are brought to such extremes to satisfy their emotional needs.

As usual in his documentaries, much of the available fun comes from watching Broomfield, sound equipment primed, poke his seemingly innocent face into a hornet's nest. He asks ingenuous ques-

tions: he needles. A pet lizard bites the cameraman. Broomfield himself shifts ground during filming from being an uneasy observer of an alien world to a mildly sympathetic explorer of one more human peculiarity. The film is funny, disturbing and usefully informative.

Peter Greenaway was also a mine of information when he appeared for one of the festival's "Scene by Scene" events and took us through the complexities of his new film, *The Pillow Box*. Greenaway calmly tossed out the provocative thought that after 100 years cinema is waiting to be

reborn as a purely visual experience. He longs for a cinema not tethered to words or narratives plodding from A to Z; our own minds, he argues, never work in a straight line.

He has a point, although in Edinburgh we did not need Greenaway to remind us of cinema's failures. We had but to look at *Tattoo Boy*, a pallid tale of teenage hustlers from a young American hopeful, 21-year-old Larry Turner; or Andrea Weiss's survey of gay life on British screens, *A Bit of Scarlet*, a local answer to *The Celluloid Closet* that queers its pitch, so to speak, by avoiding historical perspective, mixing cinema fiction

DONALD COOPER

colonial years: endless documentaries showing natives as "useful citizens", working in factories, converting to Christianity. The camera keeps a safe distance from their faces, only moving in to show the effects of disease. There is no commentary: the soundtrack blends Indonesian music and poetry with ambient noise (useful for getting your thoughts about colonial exploitation in order).

Visually, the material is often remarkably beautiful. *Mother Dao* played at several festivals last year, so Edinburgh is lagging behind. Still, it was good to catch it: this is one film that will never play the multiplexes.



The "astounding" Terese Capucilli, in red, dances one of Martha Graham's *Sketches from Chronicle* (1936)

as this bulldozing piece for an all-female ensemble! *Chronicle* rails against war and its depravation in fierce, mesmeric blocks of movement that resonate first with fear and horror, and then with resolve. It ends with the astounding

DEBRA CRAINE

Terese Capucilli — bloodied but unbowed — framed by a corps of women at last empowered to go forward into the future. Sixty years old, it remains a knockout.

TERESA CAPUCILLI

unsensational and yet intensely focused purpose of Runnicles's interpretation.

In accordance with Britten's original intentions, the soloists were a British tenor, a German baritone, and a Russian soprano — although the audience clearly favoured Thomas Quasthoff who, to his embarrassment, was left to take a bow by himself. All three of them sang quite beautifully. It was Elena Prokina's shaping of the Verdi soprano line in *Lacrimosa* that raised the slowly developing emotional progression on to a new level, and all the more effectively when merging into Anthony Rolfe Johnson's discreetly compassionate *Move him into the sun*. The combination of Rolfe Johnson and Quasthoff in *So Abram rose* was the most disturbing experience of a generally devastating evening.

THOMAS QUASTHOFF

TONY ROLFE JOHNSON

ELENA PROKINA

ANTHONY ROLFE JOHNSON

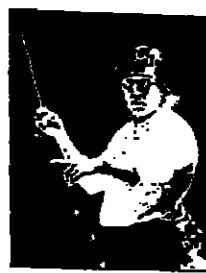
THOMAS QUASTHOFF

TONY ROLFE JOHNSON

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TONY ROLFE JOHNSON

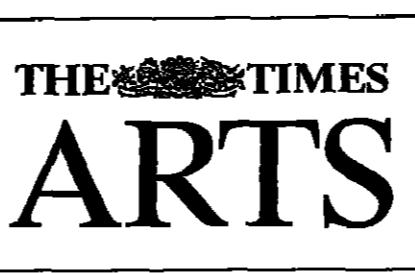
ANTHONY



CHOICE 1
Claudio Abbado
conducts the epic
Gurrelieder
in Edinburgh



CHOICE 2
... while Irvine
Welsh's play,
Headstates,
opens on the Fringe



CHOICE 3
Fiddler supreme:
Anne-Sophie
Mutter comes
to the Proms



THEATRE
A superb staging
of Beckett's
*Waiting For
Godot* comes
to Kilkenny hot
from New York

EDINBURGH

A strange cast of species from the land of myth and phantasy joins the Guestie Miller Jiggedorchester with the Arnold Schoenberg Choir and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus under Claudio Abbado in a production of the most romantic epic, *Gurrelieder* (Usher Hall, 7.30pm). Later this evening (10.30pm), the same venue is host to a leading brass instrument ensemble, the New Orleans Brass Band (10.30pm) and Charles Mackerras. This first of three concerts featuring Haydn's "Parsifal" symphonies also includes rarely performed Haydn's *Concerto* for piano by Haydn to be found at St Cuthbert's Church (6pm). Chastay Monstiques perform tonight's programme in the string quartet series. In a recital at the Old Town Hall, the American soprano Renée Fleming sings arias by Schubert, Schumann and Faure (Festival box office (0131 225 5756).

Highlights of today's Fringe include Ardal O'Hanlon of Father Ted fame who offers his own observations on life (click! Below, 8pm-9pm, £10; 8.30pm-9.30pm, £7.50). The Cheap performers Modern Problems in Shakespear made a hit at the Bloomberg Theatre, so the company's application of surreal logic and ludicrous invention to prove that the absurd is true (Assembly Rooms, 8pm, £4.45pm-10pm). Headstates, a theatre event experience by Irvine Welsh, the author of *Trainspotting*,

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Marit Hargre

features music, dance and dialogue (Griffith, 12.30pm-1.30pm, £3.50). Fringe box office (inquiries 0131-226 5267, ticket 0131-226 5139).

LONDON

BBC PROMS 86: The outstanding violinist Anne-Sophie Mutter joins the National Orchestra of France and its conductor, Kurt Masur, for a performance of Brahms's Violin Concerto in D major. Prokofiev's beautiful Romeo and Juliet is also on the bill. The Proms (01243 781312, Preview from tonight, 7.30pm, opens Aug 27, 7.30pm).

THE TWO GENTLEMEN OF VERONA

Sam Wanamaker's dream comes true. The fascinating Globe company with its Elizabethan costumes and a classic Shakespeare. The big opening will be next year's "Prologue" is to test the space (Stratford-upon-Avon, 7pm, £12.50). Preview from tonight, 7pm. Opens Sat, 21 Sept. Until September 15.

ELSEWHERE

CHICHESTER: British premiere of Fortune's Fool, an early comedy by

Turgenev, set on a country estate (of course) peopled with countrymen, lovers and villainous servants. Alan Bates heads a cast that includes Rachel Portman and Diamond Bert. Directed by Gale Edwards. Festival, Oaks Park (01243 781312, Preview from tonight, 7.30pm, opens Aug 27, 7.30pm).

THEATRE GALLERIES

British Museum: *Beauty: Uncovering the Past* (0171-815 1955). *Camden and Central: 800 Years of Art* (0171-2259 ... Museum of London: *London on Film* (0171-973 2259) ... *Museum of Moving Image: Image-in: Visions of Future Images* (0171-815 1950). *National Portrait Gallery: Aspects of the Family* (0171-2300 0055). *Rowman & Littlefield: Pope's *Essay on Man** (0171-439 7438) ... *Tate*: *Hans Hartung* (0171-887 8000) ... *V&A: Arts and Crafts Architecture* (0171-5800 6500) ... *Whitewall: The Open* (0171-522 7282).

CINNY JEEVES

Delightful musical creation by Alan Ayckbourn and Andrew Lloyd Webber, based on the *Housewife* series first screened 20 years ago, now artfully revised (0171-336 5122). *Matilda* (8pm, mat. Wed and Sat, 8pm, £5).

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (ABRIDGED) The RSC's (Reduced Shakespeare Company) popular, potty rough-handling of the Bard (0171-336 1737, 7pm-8pm, £10.50).

THE DIAL "M" FOR MURDER Peter Dawson and Catherine Rabett in *Frederick Knott's* classically ingenious thriller, dating from the days before the 80s (7pm-8pm, £10.50).

ELMER Spotted reveal of the 20-year-old inbuds show! *Elmer* plays the *Vegas* (Elm and Tim Whifford plays the *Pelvis* in a *Elmer* and *Tim Whifford* double-bill (0171-336 1732), Mon-Fri 8pm, mat. Thurs and Sat, 8pm, £5).

THE LIGHTS Howard Korder's drama of a journey through the New York nightmare, swallows the cast attacking the theater, fittingly, because at the end of the run the interior will be rebuilt.

AN IDEAL HUSBAND Peter Hall's acclaimed Haymarket production, with

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kington's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only

■ Some seats available

■ Seats at prices

Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-230 1749), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat. Sat, 3.30pm. Until Aug 31.

THE PHOENIX WOMEN KATE MICHAELSON's engrossing production of Euripides' *Medea* from last year's Stratford season; highly praised Lucy London, *Medea* and Lucy Whitchurch (0171-2259 ... Museum of London: *London on Film* (0171-973 2259) ... *Museum of Moving Image: Image-in: Visions of Future Images* (0171-815 1950).

NATIONAL PORTRAIT GALLERY: *Aspects of the Family* (0171-2300 0055). *Rowman & Littlefield: Pope's *Essay on Man** (0171-439 7438) ... *Tate*: *Hans Hartung* (0171-887 8000) ... *V&A: Arts and Crafts Architecture* (0171-5800 6500) ... *Whitewall: The Open* (0171-522 7282).

Playing it straight in the waiting room

IRISH THEATRE: Luke Clancy applauds a classic production of Beckett's *Waiting for Godot*, and wonders at the longevity of Brendan O'Carroll's farce, *The Course*

Recent years have brought us *Godot* the convict, *Godot* the besieged Sarajevo and *Godot* the slumbering Hollywood film comic. Nothing in Samuel Beckett's *Waiting for Godot* seems to forbid these interpretations. The author may have been a stickler about blocking, and the breathing rhythms of his actors, but his play enough spiralling mania to drive the audience into spontaneous applause.

McGovern and Murphy do not draw spontaneous applause, but they have the audience laughing its way through the first half. They divine the difficult transitions between Beckett's dry, academic quips and his slapstick humour without fail, enhancing both without letting the cleverness of their performances become jarringly. The pair even lop around the stage in a state of such

perfect distraction that the little symmetrical patterns director Walter Asmus has them perform — which seem to have come hotfoot from Beckett's *Quad* — feel like natural placements.

If Beckett leaves one slightly cold, even after this production, it is silly to complain. A romp was never on the cards. Still, it is hard not to notice, even given the comedy, quite how difficult it seems to generate excitement about this part of Beckett's work now. Perhaps it is just that the time for a play that means everything and nothing is coming to an end. Or was that yesterday?

It is rejected by last year's Dublin Theatre Festival has not adversely affected the longevity of *Brendan O'Carroll's* patchy farce, *The Course*. Originally at the Tivoli, and now in the Gaiety, Dublin, its audiences still appear more than satisfied with O'Carroll's work as writer, director and star of this comedy about an induction course for insurance salespeople.

Influenced by Bernard Farrell's *Seventies* piece *I Do Not Like This Doctor Fell*, but also perhaps by James Clavell's *Sir With Love*, O'Carroll's play has a band of misfits and losers gathering for a last-chance fortnight of

to notice, even given the comedy, quite how difficult it seems to generate excitement about this part of Beckett's work now. Perhaps it is just that the time for a play that means everything and nothing is coming to an end. Or was that yesterday?

It all makes a perfect nest for two tight central performances, from McGovern and Johnny Murphy (as Estragon) and the audience laughing its way through the first half.

McGovern and Murphy do not draw spontaneous applause, but they have the audience laughing its way through the first half. They divine the difficult transitions between Beckett's dry, academic quips and his slapstick humour without fail, enhancing both without letting the cleverness of their performances become jarringly. The pair even lop around the stage in a state of such

perfect distraction that the little symmetrical patterns director Walter Asmus has them perform — which seem to have come hotfoot from Beckett's *Quad* — feel like natural placements.

If Beckett leaves one slightly cold, even after this production, it is silly to complain. A romp was never on the cards. Still, it is hard

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THEATRE

Wendy Wasserstein prepares for the British premiere of her Pulitzer prizewinning play



POP

Los Lobos display their versatility and power in a thunderous show at the Borderline

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Too New York for London?

Matt Wolf meets the playwright hoping for a warmer British welcome this time

Wendy Wasserstein's *The Heidi Chronicles*, opening next week at Greenwich Theatre, remains one of the most acclaimed American plays of the 1980s. But it is characteristic of England's not always generous treatment of this author that her play is only now being seen in the city where much of it was written a decade ago.

At the time Wasserstein was writing at the Nell Gwynne House in Chelsea, courtesy of a grant from the British-American Arts Association. Since then the writer has become one of New York's few bona fide commercial playwrights, and is more likely when in London to stay at the Savoy. *Heidi* not only brought Wasserstein her first Broadway success, the 1989 Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize included, but launched her on a separate career as public speaker, essayist and all-round agony aunt: a Brooklyn-born Jew turned mouthpiece for a nation's women.

Wasserstein's subsequent play, *The Sisters Rosensweig* (1992), actually got to London first — also to Greenwich, in a 1994 staging with Maureen Lipman and Janet Suzman that transferred successfully to the Old Vic. But though audiences responded to the play, which is indeed set in London, local critics were less kind. Several wondered whether hers was the sort of distinctively New York voice that — like Neil Simon and Herb Gardner — does not always travel.

Such thoughts, unsurprisingly, do not sit well with Wasserstein, whose affection for London has yet to be returned. How else to explain the belated arrival of *Heidi*, in most people's view a stronger play than *Sisters Rosensweig*, after several false starts that, at various times, had Fiona Shaw and Elizabeth McGovern mooted to star in a London premiere?

Wasserstein knows the local objections to her work too American, too Jewish, too "sentimental". What those detractors fail to recognise is her indebtedness to English drama — she cites both David Edgar's *Maydays* and David Hare's *Plenty* as influences on *Heidi* ("I thought of calling my play *Empty*," she jokes) — and to politics that leave placards and banners behind. "The only thing 'too New York' about *Heidi* is maybe my last name," says Wasserstein, 45, her remarks punctuated by wry, self-deprecating laughter.



Wendy Wasserstein: "I thought of *The Heidi Chronicles* as a story about a woman from the Midwest, the heartland, who has this set of values and then comes east"

As for being "too Jewish", she says that *Heidi* is not a Jewish play at all. I thought of it as a story about a woman from the Midwest, someone from the heartland, who has this certain set of values and then comes east."

The play's Broadway star, Joan Allen, won a Tony nomination for playing Dr Heidi Holland, the art historian whose life leads her to the decision, as an adult woman nearing middle age, to adopt a child alone. A subsequent television version starred Jamie Lee Curtis.

The Heidi Chronicles, Wasserstein freely admits, "totally changed my life". After such off-Broadway hits as *Uncommon Women and Others* — which

“Maybe the problem has been that Heidi has a baby at the end, so that's not seen as political enough,” muses Wasserstein, whose ending inflamed some feminists in America. “A lot of women thought what I was saying was that to be happy, a woman has to have a baby alone.”

Instead, she says: “I just thought this is that woman's choice. Can anyone really tell me that all the women who have adopted children alone have made a wrong choice?”

The Heidi Chronicles, Wasserstein freely admits, “totally changed my life”. After such off-Broadway hits as *Uncommon Women and Others* — which

began as her thesis play at the Yale Drama School, where Meryl Streep and Sigourney Weaver were contemporaries — and *Isn't It Romantic*, she reached the Broadway audience she had been a part of since she was nine.

But rather than write a play a year, as Neil Simon more or less has, Wasserstein takes her time, preferring to nurture each one through a developmental process beginning at the Seattle Repertory Theatre and on to the non-profit Lincoln Centre Theatre in New York. It is under the auspices

of Lincoln Centre that her next play, *An American Daughter*, will open on Broadway in March. And though no casting has been set, Streep and Whoopi Goldberg led an early New York reading.

Away from plays, Wasserstein writes for other art forms — a version of *The Nutcracker* for American Ballet Theatre, a children's book entitled *Pamela's First Musical* — and has a lucrative ancillary career on the celebrity speaker circuit. “I'm a relatively shy person,” she explains, “and for shy people it's often easier to speak to 500 people than one-on-one, even if you do wonder whether the

women in the audience would want their daughters to grow up to be me — this single-woman playwright.”

But though a film with director Nicholas Hytner, a close friend, is planned for next spring, Wasserstein's loyalties are to the stage. Writing for other media, she says, “voices get lost; it's very, very rare where you're not doing a glorified form of dictation. The theatre is the one place where there is at least a voice — where a writer can say, ‘Wait a minute; we still merit attention.’”

• *The Heidi Chronicles* is in preview from tomorrow at the Greenwich Theatre (0181-582 7733), opening August 29

After La Bamba, caramba!

LOS LOBOS' role on the soundtrack of the hit 1987 movie *La Bamba*, which gave them an international No 1 that year with the title song, has proved to be a classic piece of miscasting.

The Hispanic-American group may have been the perfect choice to portray the songs of the 1950s Chicano rock 'n' roller Ritchie Valens, but that song has hung over them like a dark spirit ever since, blocking the light of the much richer creativity of subsequent albums. To recognise Los Lobos simply for *La Bamba* is akin to remembering Chuck Berry for *My Ding-a-Ling*.

This year's addition to their undervalued oeuvre is *Colossal Head*, a mighty beast with tentacles stretching to entwine all manner of rock references. The band, formed amid the richly Mexican heritage of East Los Angeles 23 years ago, were frequent visitors here during their

POP

Los Lobos
Borderline, W1

reluctant celluloid-inspired celebrity, but their Borderline appearance was their first UK show in several years. Shoe-horned on to the tiny stage, they started making up for lost time from the first thunderous note.

David Hidalgo and Cesar Rosas continue to lead the Los Lobos attack and it was Hidalgo who engineered an early strike with *Revolution*, the opening song on the current album. On stage as on disc, this guitar-based piece has an irresistibly slinky shuffle, made more alluring by Steve Berlin's saxophone and flute detail.

There were times when the band's sheer volume, with a cannoneade of guitars and often with two full drum kits, used a mallet to crack a nut. But for the most part, it was share the energy and damn the eardrums, especially as they unlocked such treasures as *One Time One Night* and the glorious 1984 piece *Will the Wolf Survive?*

Hidalgo's accordion, an essential face of Los Lobos' Hispanic personality, was restricted to one small set of Spanish songs two thirds through the show. But with that tool, they turn into the ultimate party band and you remember that you meant to ask them to play at your wedding. Next week, when they play at the Democrat convention, Bill Clinton gets the next best thing.

PAUL SEXTON

Laugh and learn

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

formance of Ben Jonson's brilliant Jacobean comedy, *The Alchemist* at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre. It stars Simon Callow, Josie Lawrence and Tim Pigott-Smith. On Saturday night, by total contrast, you will enter the world of Victorian beauty and elegance that awaits in an exclusive private reception in the Round Room of the Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery. This is the setting for a magnificent collection of Pre-Raphaelite art in an exhibition entitled *Visions of Love and Life*. To complete the evening, a vocal ensemble, Ex Cathedra, will perform songs from the time, and Pre-Raphaelite poetry will be recited in front of the appropriate canvases. Wine and canapés will also be served.

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It had to be ewes . . .



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Venables tries to console a distraught Southgate after the player had missed the penalty in the dramatic shoot-out against Germany at Wembley that cost England a place in the final of the European championship

Southgate pays harsh penalty

BY TERRY VENABLES



thing is to get behind the ball and start again. Otherwise, you could lose a goal, and that's even uncomfortable.

The trouble was, Teddy was going all the way back, which left Anderton narrow and Shearer isolated. McManaman also came back, which meant Gary Neville was pushed in and we were defending with four against two, which was one too many. In the end, Spain only gave us problems tactically for a 25-minute spell and Sergi didn't actually do us any damage.

As I said to the players at half-time: "If you do the right things, he won't hurt us. If you keep him wide, he is only going to get in a cross; and I'll back us on crosses." So I gave them a licence not to worry about failing. I also pushed Gary Neville on Sergi, told Teddy to get back upfield again and put McManaman in the 'hole', where he plays for his club. I just told Steve to do what he does for Liverpool, and asked the other players to get the ball to him quicker.

That's not the whole story, to be honest. Originally, I was planning to lay a type of trap. It would have involved Gary Neville playing alongside the centre half when the ball was in Spain's back third in case they attacked with a long forward pass. But, as the ball was coming forward, Gary would start going out wide and McManaman would have to come back only two-thirds of the field. Steve would then pass Sergi over to Neville and be in position to receive the ball when we got it.

If we had stuck it into him quickly, there was no one in their side who could have picked him up until he had run the length of the field and around their backs. However, the players didn't look as though they were too sure what I meant. So when Don Howe suggested we should just push Neville on in Sergi, that's what we did. It was a better solution than mine because it was just as effective and simpler.

The match wasn't supposed to go the full 120 minutes because Uefa had had the bright idea of introducing sudden-death extra time for this tournament. But instead of encouraging us and Spain to go for the "golden goal" that would have ended the contest there and then, the first experience of the new system had an inhibiting effect and made both of us more cagey than we would normally have been in the extra period of play. I was happy before extra time started. I said to the players: "Keep that steady edge, that belief we are going to win it. Don't succumb to tiredness and just make sure we are doing the same things as before, because now we are the better

Pearce lays to rest the ghost of Italia 90 as a shoot-out against Spain brings joyous victory and a place in the semi-finals, where Germany are the opponents once again and another player is left with the misery of missing a vital spot-kick

side." That's all. I kept it simple. I don't believe in long speeches, especially at moments like that when they are not really listening.

Nevertheless, worrying more about giving a goal away than scoring one was a pattern that was to be repeated in other matches before we and Germany finally threw caution to the wind in our semi-final. So, eventually, we and Spain were forced to settle the contest with the dreaded penalty shoot-out.

Much as I dislike penalties as a way of deciding matches, I have to admit they can lend a touch of drama to the occasion. That was

better fate. Together with his penalty save from Scotland's McAlister and the exceptional saves he made in open play from Switzerland's Grassi, Scotland's Durie and Holland's Bergkamp, Seaman's heroics against Spain established him without doubt as the best goalkeeper in the tournament. It was quite an achievement considering Denmark's Peter Schmeichel and Portugal's Vitor Baia were regarded as being in contention for the title of best goalkeeper in the world at the start of Euro 96. But I don't want to start saddling David with the burden of that title. It wouldn't be fair.

proved himself a world-class striker. It was a great team performance against Germany and one that we had prepared for well. They had a good 20 minutes in the first half of normal time, but I don't think Matthias Sammer, their influential sweeper, was much of an influence on that game. Our problem was that we didn't know how to hold on to our lead for 20 minutes. I think we were a bit shocked at scoring so early, went back into our "the last thing you learn" syndrome and let them back into the game.

We had collapsed after Brazil equalised against us in the Umbro

because of injury, but I knew he knew what I wanted. He's intelligent and I knew he would last the distance. Another two weeks and he would have been right back at his best. In his last game, against Germany, I thought he was terrific. He was just coming right. He needed the time and the games. I took a gamble on him, but I didn't see it as one. I just think he's so naturally fit, he doesn't have to train. There are certain players you only have to talk to, and they'll do it for you. Now I'm looking forward to seeing a great Darren Anderton in the future.

People kept suggesting I have favourites, but you must go with your real feelings about players. You have to decide whether they are good enough or not, regardless of what others say. I believed in Shearer, Sheringham and Gazzetta when other people were questioning their ability, and I'm happy to think they proved me right. I don't think there was anything to prove with Anderton. Up to Euro 96, he scored five goals in 12 games; that, for a wide player, is outstanding. That kind of record doesn't need any confirmation from me. I didn't see it as showing loyalty to those players. So far as I was concerned, it was simply a question of believing they were the best-equipped candidates for their positions and for the type of football I wanted to play, and sticking to it.

It was back to the penalty shoot-out, this time without a happy ending. Since even the first ten penalties couldn't separate us, all of them ending up in the net, it had to go to sudden death again. Gareth Southgate had bravely volunteered to take our sixth penalty, but he failed to beat the German goalkeeper, Andreas Kipke, who had dived the right way. All that was needed then to complete Southgate's misery, and put us out of the competition, was for Andy Möller to score from the Germans' sixth penalty, which he duly did.

Gareth was distraught and no amount of consolation from Stuart Pearce, Tony Adams and admiral, Jürgen Klinsmann, could alleviate his distress. I think he felt a bit better when we all opted to go back to our hotel at Burnham Beeches instead of going home, had a few drinks and talked long into the night.

The wiseacres, of course, were soon saying I was wrong to let Southgate take the sixth penalty. They argued that I should have insisted on a recognised marksman like Ince. Anderton or McManaman going before him. But I'm not going to get into all that. So far as I'm concerned, it's a much better arrangement to have someone volunteering to take a penalty than to force another player to do it. Not only that, but I do not

intend to embarrass any of the players by revealing who was willing to take a penalty and who was not. In any case, the further you go down a list of penalty-takers, the more likely it is there will be a miss. But we ought not to be subjecting people to this kind of pressure. Penalties put too much strain on the one player. It could ruin his career if he's not a strong character. I don't think it will in Gareth's case, but if you feel for the rest of your life everyone could have had a winners' medal but for you, it's a hard thing to get over.

When I was angry with the press at the start of Euro 96, I said to them: "Well, now you are giving them so much stick and have treated them so shabbily, they are out there to be judged on what they do. They are not just writing about it." Maybe, in my anger, I didn't express myself as clearly as I might have done. What I meant to say was: "Hold on a minute. Don't make yourselves superior. These are just ordinary human beings. They are guys who have been playing for their country and they live on the hard edge. Millions are watching them and expecting."

That is why I think it appropriate at this point to quote a well-known poem by Theodore Roosevelt, the former American president. It applies to the whole of the England squad, but to Gareth Southgate in particular. It reads as follows:

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could actually have done them better.

The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood, who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again;

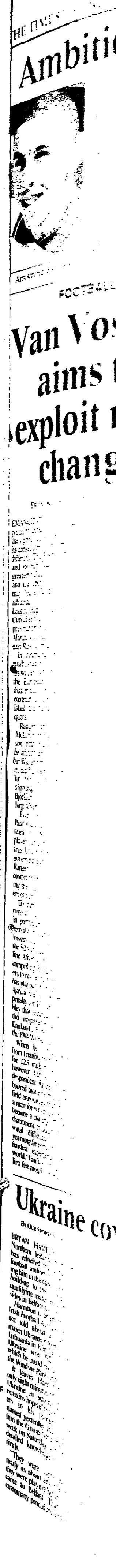
because there is not effort without error and shortcomings; but who does actually strive to do the deed; who knows great enthusiasm, the great devotion, who spends himself in a worthy cause;

who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement and who at the worst, if he fails, at least he fails while daring greatly.

So that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

□ Extracted from *The Best Game in the World* by Terry Venables, published by Century on September 5 at £15.99.

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Ambitious Armstrong revels in the good times



By RUSSELL KEMPSON

LAST season, it took Chris Armstrong more than 12 hours to register his first league goal; this season, he waited only 33 minutes before signing his account. Armstrong, the Tottenham Hotspur striker, is now part of the FA Carling Premiership furniture, a respected opponent and much-feared marksman.

Gone, too, or at least fading, are the memories of 18 months ago, when he tested positive for cannabis, and the subsequent furore that enveloped him. He withdrew even further into his uncommunicative shell and wallowed in indignation at the many lurid tales, mostly untrue, that were doing the rounds.

Armstrong, 25, is at peace with the world at last. The goals — 22 last season and, already, two this — have helped to erase the bad times. He scored both in Tottenham's 2-0 win against Blackburn Rovers at Ewood Park on Saturday and, when Derby County visit North London this evening, he is confident of increasing his tally.

"It took me a while to get going last season, to get that elusive first goal."

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Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, has played a key role with his sensitive coaching and cajoling of Armstrong — Alan Smith, his manager at Palace, had tried valiantly but failed — and, consequently, the partnership with Teddy Sheringham, the England striker, has become one of the most productive in the Premiership. It reaped 40 goals last season, with only Robbie Fowler and Stan Collymore, of Liverpool, more prolific.

The return to full health of Darren Anderton, the England winger, has proved similarly helpful. Anderton supplies the ammunition, Sheringham the intellect and Armstrong the deceptive pace and gloss finish. "Teddy is world class," Armstrong said. "We know each other's game so much better now and it can only improve."

Having Darren back is great, too. he makes such a difference to the side. As a striker, you always rely on decent service from midfield. With Darren there, you know you are going to get it."

Armstrong, still quiet yet less introspective, has no regrets about resisting the overtures of Newcastle United, his home-town club, and

choosing Tottenham instead. "It was a hard decision but I'm sure I made the right decision," he said. He also harbours hopes of an international call-up.

"To gain that sort of recognition would be tremendous," he said, "but, first, I've got to concentrate on playing well for Tottenham. Then we'll see what happens." He is qualified to represent England — he has played for them at B level — or could even wear the green of Ireland.

Armstrong has been courted by Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, for many months, yet, at Ewood Park on Saturday, he possibly gained another admirer. Sitting in the stands, with World Cup notebook in hand, was Glenn Hoddle, the new England coach.

Arsenal wait on arrival of new manager

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

ARSENAL will have to wait a while longer before appointing Arsène Wenger as their new manager. Wenger is experiencing problems in gaining his release from Nagoya Grampus Eight, his club in Japan, but is still expecting the matter to be resolved by next week at the latest.

After dismissing Bruce Rioch only five days before the start of the FA Carling Premiership season, Arsenal had hoped to make an announcement yesterday. However, with the Japanese season not yet finished and Wenger still under contract, the plan has met with complications.

"Nagoya need to consider things a bit longer before making a decision on my future," Wenger said. "We have to speak again in the next few days, and there will be an announcement soon, but I don't know when. Perhaps this week, or maybe next week, I'm not sure. I have tried to push Nagoya, but they want more time."

Wenger also denied an interest in David Ginola, Newcastle United's French winger, after reports suggested that Arsenal were preparing a bid of £4 million. "No, I don't know anything about this," Wenger said.

"David is a very good player, but he plays for Newcastle. You have to study the quality of the player and then see if he would fit into your team and bring a good balance."

After the 2-0 win over West Ham United at Highbury on Saturday, Arsenal's marginally improved state of health suffered another relapse with the 2-0 defeat against Liverpool at Anfield on Monday night. It worsened yesterday when Ian Wright, their outspoken striker, accused the club's coaching staff of ignoring him after he had made public his antipathy towards the departed Rioch.

"Some people didn't like it," Wright said. "The players seemed OK, but the coaching staff blanked me. They didn't want to know me." Wright, however, insisted that he still wants to finish his playing career at Highbury.

Stewart Houston, Arsenal's caretaker manager, admitted that the climate at the north London club was still far from settled.

"It is not really a conscious decision not to have any English players. It is just that the market there has become a bit inflated."

TOMORROW

Robson's challenge



Ronaldo, right, joins his first training session under Robson with his new Barcelona team-mates

Robson ready to reign in Spain

Oliver Holt finds the former England manager equal to the task in Barcelona

The chattering stilled, a hush descended and the smell of power flooded into the sprawling trophy rooms at the Nou Camp stadium. The sea of journalists parted as the line of unsmiling men in dark suits filed in and took their seats either side of a callow youth in a black T-shirt. At the end of the table, Bobby Robson looked on.

Jose Luis Nuñez, the Barcelona president and one of the most influential men in European football, fielded most of the questions. Occasionally, when he made a joke, the journalists laughed and an extra puff of smoke rose from the cigar of Nicolau Cassaus, the club vice-president. Juan Gaspar, the money man, the transfer wheeler-dealer, stayed straight ahead.

For Smith, this is in theory the strongest squad he has had since failing, narrowly, to reach the European Cup final in 1993, but he recognises that its potential is immaterial if the chance to explore it is squandered.

Despite rediscovering his scoring touch, Van Vossen can hardly be spared the tension that will befall the whole Rangers party this evening. The resumption of fighting in nearby Chechnia and the spartan conditions of the hotel in Vladikavkaz, although much discussed, pose little danger to the Scottish champions.

What they really fear is failure and absence from the Champions' League. In such an event, Rangers would be given a place in the first-round draw for the Uefa Cup, but little consolation could be found in that.

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Some insight into the common resolve to avoid such bitter frustration came in the first leg when Rangers were a goal down to Vladikavkaz at half-time. Many imagine that the resurgence that followed must have been produced by impassioned rhetoric in the dressing-room. Smith, however, dismisses such melodramatic interpretations.

"It had nothing to do with anything I said to them," he explained. "The players knew they had not done well and they reacted to their own disappointment."

When he joined Rangers from Istanbulspor, of Turkey, for £2.5 million last season, however, Van Vossen was a despondent figure. Every laboured move he made on the field announced that he was a man for whom football had become a misery. The disengagement, in addition to personal difficulties, left him yearning for home. "It was the hardest experience in the world," Van Vossen said of his first few months in Scotland.

Eindhoven, muttering a few shy words of Portuguese and the press conference was brought to a close. Before he skipped down the stairs to the car park, he posed for photographers with Robson and Nuñez, each locking hands for the cameras.

If there ever had been a honeymoon period for Robson in his new role as the manager of one of the world's biggest club sides, that handshake on Monday afternoon brought it to a close. Now that Ronaldo has arrived, a fiercely expectant press and public are assuming that everything will go like clockwork.

In the six weeks that Robson has been in Spain, he has been plunged into a relentless series of pre-season matches arranged by his predecessor, Johan Cruyff. He has been beset by injuries to leading players, but still the media have been dismayed by two inconsequential defeats. Like the arrival of Shearer with Porto, Ronaldo is being seen as the catalyst for an explosion of success.

Later on Monday, as the

sun set behind the main stand of the Olympic stadium, Ronaldo trained with his team-mates for the first time. By the end of the day, the press were pestering Robson about whether he would play for a full 90 minutes against the Argentinian side, San Lorenzo, in the Joan Gamper trophy last night.

Robson said: "He has just had a two-week vacation, he only arrived in the country on Saturday night and suddenly everyone thinks he is going to play a full game, score three goals and that everything will suddenly be all right. But he is not in the right condition. He will play 20 minutes at the end but we do not want him to pull a muscle and put himself out for the start of the season on September 10."

Robson, who managed England between 1982 and 1990 and came here after winning two Portuguese championships with Porto, will play Ronaldo as a lone striker, supported by the Bulgarian Stoichkov, on the left.

It is not really a conscious decision not to have any English players. It is just that the market there has become a bit inflated."

TODAY'S FIXTURES

FOOTBALL
KICK-OFF 7.30 unless stated
* denotes all-weather match

European Cup Qualifying round, second leg
Vladikavkaz (1) v Rangers (3) (5.0)

FA Carling Premiership
Aston Villa v Blackburn (7.45) ...

Charlton v Middlesbrough (7.45) ...

Leicester v Southampton (7.45) ...

Man Utd v Everton (8.0) ...

Newcastle v Wimbledon (7.45) ...

Nottingham Forest v Sunderland (7.45) ...

Rangers v Derby (7.45) ...

West Ham United v Tottenham (7.45) ...

Coca-Cola Cup
First round, second leg
Birmingham v Nottingham (7.45) ...

Midfield v Peterborough (7.45) ...

Shrewsbury v Tranmere ...

Vauxhall Conference
Gateshead v Northwich (7.45) ...

Moscow v Macclesfield (7.45) ...

FA MARTENS LEAGUE
Premier division: Baldock v Cheshunt (7.45), Saffron Walden v Stevenage (7.45) ...

Essex v Duxford (7.45) ...

Rugby v Redditch (7.45) ...

St Albans v Darlington (7.45) ...

Worthing v Greenock (7.45) ...

Worthing v Bideford (7.45) ...

Worthing v Cheltenham (7.45) ...

Worthing v Wimborne (7.45) ...

Worthing

Caught out by the weather? Be prepared

The hot, sticky weather was due to break; those clever men and women who do the weather forecasts had been telling us for days. But what they couldn't tell us was whether it would break soon enough and unusually enough for Ray Mears, self-styled "wilderness expert" for *Tracks* (BBC2) and a man never happier than when he has an orange plastic survival bag in one hand and a banana in the other. "Something as simple as a banana," he pronounced solemnly last night, "is a very good food to have on the hill." To emphasise the point he waved an example at the camera. No doubt about it, it was definitely a banana.

By this time Mears had already given us a few helpful clues about what to look for if you suspected your hillside companion was in distress. Irritability, an inability to walk in straight lines and a tendency to fall headfirst into

muddy streams in front of television cameras were all giveaway signs, he warned. He might as well have added brandishing a banana, because it was quite clear by now that the only person in serious difficulty was himself.

As the rest of us glowed, perished and — dogone it — sweated our way through the repeat of *Lonesome Dove*, Mears' chosen subject for the night was... hypothermia. "Even in summer, people die of hypothermia in Britain," he announced brightly. But even before I had concluded that it was too hot to argue (especially with a man wrapped in orange plastic and brandishing a banana) up popped Lindsay Cannon from behind on apple tree. "Mistletoe," she began. "There's more to *Viscum album* than a quick kiss on the cheek."

Not really their night, was it? By contrast, it was quite a night for Lorraine Charker, whose first

documentary for network television, *Picture This! Cliff-Chaff Chums* (BBC2), turned out to be something of a gem. What made the achievement all the more impressive was that her film — nominally about two Guide leaders running a summer camp but actually about rather more — defied certain documentary vogues. It did not mock, it did not present the odd as the ordinary and it did not give its subjects enough rope to tie themselves up in bowlines. As an exercise in restraint, it was exemplary.

However, the temptation to do otherwise must have been enormous. Both Marilyn and Jane, with their undersized caps and sensibly-thatched hair, could have spent their summer understanding the Crankies and nobody would have noticed. Instead, they spent a week taking 63 Grimsby Guides to

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

Cliff-Chaff camp in Sussex, where they distributed fried eggs and enthusiasm, tea and sympathy in impressively generous portions.

Of course, they had never grown up. We knew that and they knew that. "We're big kids at heart, really," said Jane, "or was it Marilyn? I never did quite work out which was which. But while other documentary-makers might have left us with the jerky, home-

video-style footage of two middle-aged women prancing absurdly around a flagpole, Charker made it clear that this transformation was for one week only. This was not the story of two lonely spinsters attempting to recapture their lost youth. Back home, there were husbands, children, lives.

The film was packed with memorable visual images, suggesting that Charker owed a considerable debt to her cameraman, Roger Chapman. The endless queue for the telephone, the food stores that looked as if they could fuel several attempts on Everest, the small Guide taking the long, tearful route down the abseiling tower... I could easily go on. It may have been filmed through a rose-tinted lens, but the delightful end result was definitely worth it.

You have to put on a pair of seriously rose-tinted spectacles to be very optimistic about the future of *The 10%ers* (ITV). Its run has

been disrupted by the summer of sport (or, to be more precise, by ITV's response to the BBC's summer of sport) and it has slipped from prime-time 8.30pm to not-so-prime post-News at Ten. That, however, may reflect its content as much as its ratings. It can be rather grown-up stuff.

But it can also be very funny stuff, which is why, if ITV is genuinely tiring of the theatrical goings-on at Eden Management, then another channel ought to be considering a rescue bid. It will never be another *Men Behaving Badly*, but it could flourish in a post-watershed spot on either BBC2 or Channel 4.

The cast is superb, with Clive Francis as the urbane but vulnerable Dominic Eden and Elizabeth Bennett as the voracious and invulnerable Joan, turning in wonderful performances. The scripts, however, are just a little variable.

Last night's theme was aversion therapy, with Atin (Benedict Taylor) promising to confront his fear of public speaking, if Dominic tackled whatever his greatest fear was. The problem was identifying it. Confined spaces, open spaces, spiders, dentists, Atin tried them all, getting to a point of giddy amusement. But it took just a little too long to discover, and was just a little too predictable when we did, that the greatest fear of a gourmandising agent was junk food.

So, with Dominic agreeing to trial by doner kebab, it was up to Atin to make a royalty-enhancing eulogy to his recently deceased friend and rock star, Joey Cosmos. And after a few awkward moments and one grown-up explosive (actually rather an adolescent one), he had them rolling in the pews.

Finally, a word or two about *Do You Want a Snack?*, BBC1's new morning guide to better parenting. The scariest thing on television.

6.00am Business Breakfast (51976)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (82247)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (2749829)
10.00 Do You Want a Snack? (27) (7359860)
9.50 Gourmet Island. To Stornoway, for Dublin Bay prawns: crisp pork, dulse; grilled Dover sole and chunky chips; dark chocolate mousse with burnt-orange jus (5738360)
10.20 FILM: *Carry on Don't Lose Your Head* (1965). One of the best of the farce series, set during the French Revolution. With Sid James, Jim Dale, Joan Sims, Kenneth Williams, Charles Hawtrey and Peter Butterworth (Ceefax) (1037978). Includes news at 11.00.
12.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (1492276)
12.05pm The Alphabet Game (s) (4682179)
12.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (6493082)
1.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (s) (65334)
1.30 Regional News (42777131)
1.40 Florida Folk (5200698) 2.05 Growing Places (s) (6189711) 2.10 Loverboy (1) (Ceefax) (s) (700137) 3.05 Where's the Jack? (7520353) 3.25 Knots Landing (n) (s) (549727)
5.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (825402)
6.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (604)
6.30 Regional News (524)
7.00 Small Talk (Ceefax) (s) (3686)
7.30 Mastermind. Magnus Magnusson puts four more contestants into the hot seat. The specialist subjects are: beekeeping, the life and times of Geoffrey Studer Kennedy, the career of Napoleon Bonaparte and the life and works of George Orwell (Ceefax) (s) (605)
8.00 Only Fools and Horses. Del Boy attempts to break into the big time when he sets up a consortium to buy 250 gold chains from a jeweller dealer at a knockdown price. But things do not go to plan when the dealer has a heart attack over lunch — with the gold still attached to his wrist. With David Jason and Nicholas Lyndhurst (r) (Ceefax) (188247)
8.50 Points of View (2936599)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News; Regional News; Weather (4808)
9.30 The Thin Blue Line. DI Grim has to deal with real-life terrorists, Constable Habit falls for a hunky fireman and Constable Goody goes green (r) (Ceefax) (s) (63897)
10.00 Inside Story: Betrayal. (Ceefax) (s) (211605)
10.50 Match of the Day. Desmond Lynam introduces highlights from tonight's match at Stamford Bridge, between Chelsea and Middlesbrough (9840792)
11.55 FILM: *The Devil's Brigade* (1968). Factual account of the Iraqui's brigade of Americans and Canadians sent to take on the Nazis in Scandinavia; based on the books of Robert H. Alderman and Colonel George Watson. With William Holden, Cliff Robertson, Vince Edwards, Andrew Prine, Claude Akins, Robert O'Connor and Richard Jaeckel. Directed by Andrew V. McLagan (23007315)
12.05pm Weather (104261)

6.00am Open University: *Modeling Drug Therapy* (3511518) 6.25 From Snowdon to the Sea (3522353) 6.50 *History Writing and Unwriting Testimony* (29171) 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (8949334)
7.30 Mr. Benn (151119) 7.45 *Lassie* (1571995) 8.00 *Bed Smurfs' Adventures* (5085181) 8.25 *Get You Off Back* (5281781) 8.05 *Smart* (2739402) 9.25 *Smart* (7355421) 9.50 *Puppydog Tales* (3933886)

10.00 Playdays (790366) 10.25 *Man in a Suitcase* (5272686) 11.15 *The Addams Family* (6303402) 11.40 *The Phil Silvers Show* (3687457) 12.05pm *Danger Theatre* (6620976) 12.30 *Postcards from Down Under* (79063) 1.00 *McLennan and Maureen's Music-Grama* (4572421) 1.15 *A-Z of Food* (2473151) 1.25 *Menus and Music* (1497928)

1.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show (Ceefax) (5869179) 2.20 *Crashaw Paints Oils* (8712044) 2.45 *Understanding People* (4282808) 3.00 *News* (1571334) 3.05 *The Natural World* (1642975) 3.55 *News* (3156805) 4.00 *Cartoon* (5305792) 4.05 *The Family Ness* (5304063) 4.10 *Run the Risk* (n) (s) (2826995) 4.30 *Cartoon Critters* (421) 5.00 *Newsround* (7237529) 5.10 *Byker Grove* (n) (4185959)

5.35 *Paralympics*. Further coverage from Atlanta featuring the final qualification round in the men's wheelchair basketball competition (s) (194268)

6.20 Student Choices '96. The lowdown on halls of residence and shared houses (704151)

6.30 *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. Picard tries to work out how the Bardi inhabitants of Derelik built the Farpoint station (r) (Ceefax) (s) (50247)

6.45 *Inside Story: Betrayal*. (Ceefax) (s) (211605)

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12.05pm Weather (104261)

6.00am *PlusCodes*. The numbers next to each TV programme which are *Video PlusCodes* numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a *Video PlusCode* + handset. Tap in the *Video PlusCode* for the programme you want to record. *Video PlusCode* (+) and *Video Programmer* are trademarks of Gemstar Development Ltd.

Living the high life (8.00pm)
8.00 *Wildlife on Two: Orang-Utans... Out on a Limb*. David Attenborough narrates a first time view of the private life of orang-utans (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8969)

8.30 *Will Harvest* with Nick Nairn. Final programme in the series. Nairn discovers how to shoot pigeon (2711)

9.00 *Lonesome Dove: Return*. The concluding instalment of the story. The outfit are shocked by their recent loss but continue into buffalo territory (r) (Ceefax) (s) (3179)

10.30 *Newsnight* (Ceefax) (99131)

11.15 *Paralympics*. American writer Maya Angelou makes a pilgrimage to Burns Park (Ceefax) (s) (622222)

12.05pm *Grace Under Fire* (5867735)

12.30pm *The Learning Zone: Open University: Renewable Energies* (61932) 1.00 *Global Tourism* (19132) 2.00 *Summer Nights* (18483) 4.00 *Languages* (24109) 5.00 *Science* (24109) 6.00 *Technology* (24109) 7.00 *Arts* (24109) 8.00 *Business* (24109) 9.00 *Health* (24109) 10.00 *Environment* (24109) 11.00 *Education* (24109) 12.00 *Science* (24109)

1.45 *Angelou on Burns*. American writer Maya Angelou makes a pilgrimage to Burns Park (Ceefax) (s) (622222)

2.00pm *News at Ten* (Ceefax) (s) (622222)

2.45 *Paralympics*. Further coverage from Atlanta featuring the final qualification round in the men's wheelchair basketball competition (s) (194268)

3.00 *Student Choices '96*. The lowdown on halls of residence and shared houses (704151)

3.30 *Destinations* (78033) 4.30 *CBS Evening News* (59038) 5.30 *World News* (59038)

5.30 *Weather* (104261)

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CRICKET 37

Rowdy scenes
greet India's
cup final triumph

SPORT

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 21 1996

RACING 39

Crowd pleasing
victory for
Halling at York



Sussex fast bowler banished from first-class game until 1998

Giddins pays heavy price for drug use

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

CRICKET dealt with a drugs offender yesterday in a manner that can be considered a firm example to all or, alternatively, a severe overreaction. Either way, an imposed suspension, until April 1998, has quite possibly ended the career of Ed Giddins, one of the English game's brightest young fast bowlers and most colourful characters.

The discipline committee of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), chaired by Gerard Elias QC, found Giddins, 25, guilty of using cocaine. After a hearing at Lord's that split into a second day, he was banned from all cricket under the auspices of the Board and his registration with Sussex was cancelled.

Giddins left the ground without comment and has 14 days in which to consider an appeal to the Cricket Council. It is not believed that the police are involved, despite the illegal status of the substance, but Giddins is this morning confronting life without cricket, indeed life without work, less than a year after his selection for an England A tour to Pakistan.

The only previous English cricketer to fail a random drugs test, routinely operated by the Sports Council, is Richard Stimp, who was then with Worcestershire. His explanation that drinks had been spiked was accepted, leaving Giddins as the first to suffer a suspension in such circumstances, although Ian Botham was suspended for two months in 1987 after admitting using cannabis.

Cricket had no easy choices in the case of Giddins. As cocaine is a grade A banned substance, a suspension of some sort was inevitable once the player's defence, that he had ingested it inadvertently,

had been rejected. Cricket has a responsibility to show itself as a clean sport, with an image attractive to the young, but it was also the duty of the discipline committee to find that sensitive balance between the deterrent and the draconian, and they may have erred on the side of the latter.

Drugs in sport familiarly relate to an attempt to enhance performance, to gain an unfair advantage over others. Nobody can seriously believe that Giddins' motive in snorting cocaine was to make himself a better fast bowler.

He might have been a fool but he is not a cheat, and it is the banishment of cheats that sport customarily addresses.

ED GIDDINS

1971; born, Eastbourne, July 20. Educated at St Bede's and Eastbourne College 1982-84; made senior county debut 1984; awarded under-23 player of the year 1984; awarded county cap 1986; toured Pakistan with England A 1986; banned by TCCB 19 April 1996. Averages: Runs: 29.94 (first-class); 33.71 (one-day); Batting: 5.63 (first-class); 2.50 (one-day); Best bowling: 6 for 47 (first-class); 1 for 22 (one-day); Highest scores: 54 (one-day); 13 (over-day).

when it deals with drugs. If it is going to take on the problems of society, of which cocaine is unquestionably one, cricket is entering murky areas.

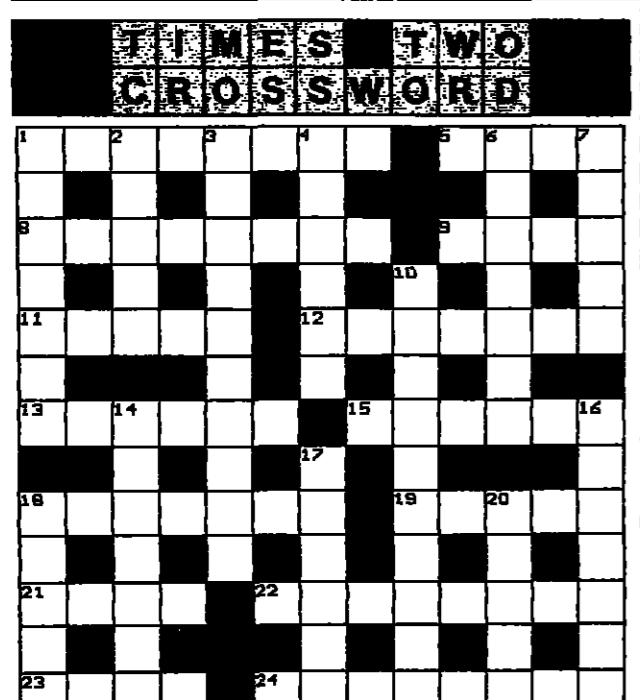
The Board's statement yesterday condemned Giddins's conduct. "It was not only likely to bring the game into disrepute but had the potential to put at risk the safety of fellow players and officials." Quite what was meant by this is unclear, for there is no suggestion that Giddins behaved any more recklessly than usual on the day in question, though this, admittedly, gives him appreciable licence, for he has never been

selected to represent his country. Giddins continued to select him while conjecture raged around them but whether they will help him to revive his career, if he so wishes, remains to be seen. Bett struck a cautionary note: "The next 12 months will be a test for him to see if he wants to come back into the game. He has got a lot of thinking to do."

Afield setback, page 37
India's triumph, page 37



Giddins, in appealing mode, has 14 days to decide whether to challenge yesterday's TCCB judgment



No 866

CROSS
1 Dyed town; Oxford. Cambridge college (8)
5 Square-rigger; (Sc) bridge (4)
8 Formal decision (5)
9 Meat-in-tortilla snack (4)
11 Prospero its duke; AC. Inter-city (5)
12 Old straight track (3,4)
13 Rapid-water channel (6)
15 Change; circuit control (6)
18 Miraculous resource (7)
19 Changes direction; sounds like 'loop' (5)
21 Stock of tall grass (4)
22 Able to read and write (8)
23 Sudden quiet (4)
SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 861

ACROSS: 1 Rack and ruin 8 Prism 9 Prodigy 10 Dope
11 Indigent 13 Margin 14 Dum dum 15 Commit 16 Zebra crossing 10 Cyan
22 Upstart 23 Azure 24 Treasonable

DOWN: 1 Rapid 2 Clipper 3 Army 4 Daphne 5 UXorius
6 Noise 7 System 12 Displace 13 Maraud 15 Disturb 16 States
18 List 20 Perve 21 Main

SOLUTION TO TIMES TWO CROSSWORD 861

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11 Scourge 13 Paltry 15 Commit 18 Cecilia 20 Dash 23 Old age
22 Upstart 24 Soya 25 Lollipop

DOWN: 1 Adze 2 Bobby 3 Spanner 4 Ogres 6 Epigram
7 Vignette 8 Oslo 12 Specious 14 Lucidly 16 Ordinal 17 Sappho
19 Logo 21 Skimp 22 Snapp

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Keegan to play all his aces

By PETER BALL AND
RUSSELL KEMPS

KEVIN KEEGAN is making no concessions to pragmatism. While criticism of his credo of all-out attack resounds, the Newcastle United manager is refusing to amend his approach. Instead, he is playing all three of his expensive forwards as they search for their first win of the season against Wimbledon at St James' Park tonight.

The criticism of our defence is totally justified," Keegan said yesterday, "but I don't accept that the players aren't good enough. Last season we had about the fourth best defensive record in the Premiership. I work from the forwards back, and to change that now I think would be a mistake."

Keegan has demanded more passion and commitment. We have to learn the lessons of Wembley and

Goodison," he said. "I have told the players what they are. We are lacking urgency and we are not really together as a team. I am looking for passion and determination, and if they can't put it right, they'll go out of the team." Asprilla, who missed Saturday's opening game at Everton through suspension, returns and is likely to play alongside both Shearer and Ferdinand in an attacking trio that cost Newcastle around £28 million.

Everton, 20-winners over Newcastle last Saturday, face an even stiffer test of their credentials tonight, away to Manchester United. They are going, however, with confidence high. "Since I've been manager, the score against United has been 2-2, and our two includes the FA Cup Final," Joe Royle, the Everton manager, said. "A lot of teams lessoned before they get to Old Trafford. We won't be." United will be without Keane

and there are fitness doubts concerning Giggs and Cantona.

Middlesbrough's visit to Stamford Bridge to take on Chelsea brings together Fabrizio Ravanelli and Gianluca Vialli, the former Juventus strikers. Had Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, had his audacious

way, Vialli could have joined his former team-mate at the Riverside Stadium.

"It did cross my mind to bring them both here," Robson said. "It didn't work out in the end, but I'm sure both of them will be equally successful in the Premiership."

The pair experienced contrasting fortunes at the weekend. Ravanelli scored a hat-trick in Middlesbrough's 3-3 draw with Liverpool, while Vialli drew a blank in Chelsea's 0-0 draw against Southampton.

"Gianluca is still one of the best players in the world," Ravanelli said. "I'm convinced he will be a huge success in this country." Vialli played down the significance of their reunion tonight. "The game is not just about myself and Fabrizio, it is not any sort of confrontation between us," he said. "It is about two teams and how they play, that is the important thing."



Keegan: more commitment

Rebel teams spark Formula One rift

By OLIVER HOLT

THE cracks in the ranks of Formula One motor racing teams that have been forcing their way to the surface for the past few months finally burst into the open yesterday. The International Motor Sport Federation (FIA) announced sweeping changes to the way grand prix motor racing will be run from next year, but three of its most powerful teams refused to be party to the new deal.

Williams, the constructors' champions, McLaren and Tyrrell have long made known their unhappiness with the terms of the radical new Concorde Agreement, the document that lays down the guidelines for the sharing of television and circuit income and the staging of races between 1997 and 2001.

The teams have been engaged in an increasingly frenetic series of meetings at

grands prix in the past six weeks as they attempted to reach a compromise. Yesterday, though, it appeared that the patience of Max Mosley, the president of the FIA, and Bernie Ecclestone, the president of the Formula One Constructors' Association, had finally snapped.

The new rules, which include the abolition of the two Friday practice sessions, turning grands prix into two-day events instead of three, and provision for 17 races a season instead of 16, have been implemented without the consent of the three rebels.

Technically, each of the three could be stopped from participating in races and although they are likely to be allowed to compete by applying to the Formula One Commission, their refusal to sign could lead to their non-participation in future events if the schism intensifies.

Ken Tyrrell, the Tyrrell chairman, said

yesterday that he was "flabbergasted" by the announcement from the FIA headquarters in Paris and, initially, at least, the three non-signatories are likely to suffer financially, penalised by being allotted a smaller share of income than those that have agreed to the new rules.

If they decided to flex their muscles, though, they could throw the sport into disarray because the Concorde Agreement also guarantees a 20-car grid. There are only 22 cars competing already and, even with the addition of Stewart Grand Prix next season, the withdrawal of six cars would leave the FIA two short.

That might play into the hands of Ecclestone, who is an advocate of three-car teams, although it is unlikely that Williams and their fellow rebels could risk the wrath of sponsors and prejudice their drivers' championship chances by refusing to race in individual events.



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